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The PRINTER to the READER.

AMongit many Histories, as well Ancient as Modern, which have in former Times Borrowed our *English* Phrase to speak withal, this (gentle Reader) here of *Valentine and Orson*, Sons to the Emperor of *Greece*, now once again Imprinted, craves a free Passage of thy Acceptance, and puts it self to the Censure of those Historiographers, which make *Invention* the eldest Daughter of the Seven Sciences. Therefore, considering with my self the Worthiness of the Story, with the Variety thereof, being many Years ago first written in *French*, and since Translated into *English*; where it hath found a favourable Welcome, as well of Superiours as Inferiours; I have now again, to my Cost and Charge, Published it to the Eye and Ear of Such, to be *seen* or *heard*, as take pleasure in these kind of Writings. It is furnished with much state of Matter, Elegancy and Invention, & deck'd forth with many fair Models and lively Pictures, all pertinent and agreeable to the Subject of the History, which I have caused to be newly Cut; not only to make it carry the more grace in Reading, but a more lustre to Heroick Atchievements of Knightly Adventures: For here may the Princely Mind see his own Model; the Knightly Tilter his Martial Atchievement; and the Amorous Lady her Dulcet Passages of Love. Here are Countries, with the Courts of Kings deciphered; the Magnitude of Honours laid open; and the true Form of Turnaments described; and between Knight and Knight are here most lively Combats portrayed, to the great Content of the Reader. Let no Man therefore think his Time ill spent, or his Labour lost, where the Matter affords such Copiousness of Pleasure. The History for the Strangeness, may well bear the Title of Courtly Contents, for *indeed* it is a Garden of Courtly Delights, wherein grow Flowers of an extraordinary Savour, that gives a Scent in the Bosoms of Nobility, Ladies, Knights, and Gentlewomen: It gives also a Working to the Minds of the dull Country-swains; and (as it were) leads them to search out for Martial Atchievements, be-

The Printer to the Reader.

fitting many Pastimes. Herein is also contained the true Difference betwixt Art and Nature ; for in *Valentine* is comprehended the Education of Art ; and in *Orson* the true Working of Nature ; for being both one Emperor's Sons, the one brought up in a Prince's Palace, the other among Savage Beasts ; now makes the Current pass with more Admiration to the Reader : Mark but the Carriage of the Wild *Orson*, and you shall find that Nature hath a Being above Art ; but yet Nature bettered by Art, hath a more noble Work. The History here Written was Translated out of *French* into *English*, above a Hundred Years ago, by one *Henry Watson*, and since that time, it hath been by him Corrected, and put into a more pliant Style, and so followed on to the Press, till this present Edition, which I have (as you see) here Published for thy Benefit : therefore, Gentle Reader, accept of this my Cost and Pains, who had rather prove a Loser, than so Worthy a Story as this is, should lie in Obscurity ; for there are few Subjects of humane Carriage, but are herein handled, therefore the more fitting to be seen into. If you desire to see the Care and Troubles of Kings, here they are ; if you desire to know the Battels of Martial Champions here they are ; if of Courtly Tournaments and Combats of Princes, here they are ; if of the Travels of Knightly Adventures, here they are ; if of the Sorrows of Distressed Ladys, here they are ; if of strange Births, and savage Educations, here they are ; if of Friends long lost, and their joyful meeting again, here they are ; if of Charms and Enchantments, here they are ; if of the Reward of Traytors and Treasons, here they are ; if of long Captivities and Imprisonments, here they are : Yea, here are all the Varieties and Passages that may furnish forth a History fit for a Reader's Pleasure ; for no unseemly Words or Speeches are herein contained, but such as are modestly carried. Considering all which, I am now encouraged to put this old Story into a new Liver, and not to suffer that to lie buried, that a little Cost may keep alive. And so, Gent'le Reader, craving thy kind Acceptance, I wish thee as much Willingness to the Reading, as I have been forward in the Printing ; and so I end. The



The HISTORY of **V**alentine and **O**lson.

Chap I. How King Pepin banished his Queen Bertha; and how he gave his Sister Bellissant in Marriage to Alexander, Emperour of Constantinople.



WHEN it is set down in ancient Chronicles, that the thrice noble and valiant Pepin, some time King of France, took to Wife Bertha, who was descended of no less than Royal Race; this Lady was exceeding fair and wise, but wonderously cumbered with many adversities and troubles, enviously beset on every side; which with great patience she suffered. The chief Instrument of all this mischief towards this good Queen, was plotted and effected by a false and cursed old Woman, who first of all brought her in disgrace with the King, her husband, and after to be quite banished his bed, while she, in a cunning manner, brought in a Daughter

Daughter of her own in the good Queens stead: This old woman having thus brought her treachery to effect, (for her Daughter somewhat resembled Bertha) it so came to pass, that King Pepin had two Sons by this Maiden, to wit, Haufrey and Henry, both which Sons so grieved the King, and wasted the Country of France, by their outrages and fury, that in the end they caused the Queen Bertha to be utterly banished, where she passed a great part of her days in doleful lamentation, and abundance of sorrow: She long endured those miserable days of sorrow, at the last began to receive comfort again; for it so chanced after, at the earnest request of divers great Peers and Lords of France, this good Queen began to find favour with the King, her Husband, (who when he knew the treachery that wicked old Woman had plotted against her) much bewailed the miseries she had endured, and with great honour and triumph received her again most kindly. The Queen being thus restored to her former bed, in short time conceived, and bare unto the King a goodly Son, called Charlemain the Puissant; but the King himself was continually hunted from place to place, by the aforesaid Haufrey and Henry, and at the last compelled by them to forsake his Realm, as hereafter followeth more at large in the ensuing history. My purpose, at this present, is, to set down unto the Reader, the whole matter contained in this Book; and especially, the valiant acts and deeds of Valentine, and his Brother Orson: This King Pepin had a Sister named Bellisant, a Woman of great wit, beauty, and all the endowments that Nature might afford, which caused her Brother's love mightily to appear to all the world, in the ardent love and affection that he bare her: It chanced so, that the fame of this lovely Personage spread it self abroad in other Regions, that at last Alexander, Emperour of Constantinople, who was much enamored with her beauty, came into France, accompanied with a gallant Troop of his Nobility, all richly set out with all manner of pomp belonging to so great a Personage. This Emperour, shortly after his arrival, suddenly assembled all his Lords in their rich habiliments, appointing them to take their way towards King Pepin's Court; which when understood, he joyfully entertained them, and quickly granted the Emperour's request. King Pepin understanding this sudden, but joyful news, made great preparations in his Court, for entertaining of this noble Emperour: all things being in readiness, King Pepin, with all his noble Train, went to meet Alexander Emperour of Constantinople; whom, when they met, they entertain'd with great joy, and conducted him to the Court of France, where fair Bellisant was, and she entertained him with no less joy then her Brother had done before; and there they spent their time in joy and triumph.

This marriage being once publickly known among all the Inhabitants,

joy began to shew forth it self on every side, for such a happy day, wherein such good Alliance was knit between the Emperour Alexander, and King Pepin; that triumphs began in every place, against the nuptial-days appearance: When the time appointed came, these two were espoused in all honour sitting for their Estates, and largeness shewed it self on every side. This marriage feast endured long; but at last, being ended, the Emperour, (assisted with all his worthy train) made preparation to take their leave of his new Brother-in-law, and take their way towards Constantinople, with his fair Empress Bellisant: Being thus all mounted on horse-back, King Pepin also set forward with his Brother, to bring him on his way, Royally attended on every side, with Lords, Ladies, & many other Gallants of the Court; and they that could not find legs to go, found eyes to weep for the departure of their fair Lady and Mistress, the new Empress. These mighty Princes came near unto a Port of the Sea, whereto they must needs part; there taking leave of each other, they were forced to render more thanks in tears then words, the which I am not able to express: But above all, the Emperour yielded King Pepin worthy thanks for his quick, sudden, & generous consent, in giving to him his fair Sister Bellisant, and with so frank and free a heart to yield him good-will. At which words of the Emperour unto King Pepin, the King presently embraced him in his arms; saying, Fair Sir, and my right loving Lord and Brother, I have not received you according as your state required, nor with such triumphs and magnificence as became me, but in that you have so graciously accepted my small power, I hold my self content in that I have done, but not that I should have done; and therefore, there belongeth small thanks to me; but from me innumerable, in that you have been pleased to accept of my Sister for your Wife; whereby (I trust) long friendship shall be continued betwixt us: In token whereof, I take witness of all that are here present, that my body, my Realm, my goods, and all the Powers that I can raise in France, to adventure for your safety and succour all the days of my life. King Pepin being now departed from the Emperour, turned himself to his Sister, and in this manner takes his leave: Fair Sister (quoth he) think no longer of this Country of France, wherein you have spent your Infant-days, but remember that you are removed to a Country of better conditions: Also let your behaviour be such, that I, the rest of your Friends, and the whole Company of all the Peers may have honour and joy in you. Again, as the Country where you now do go is strange unto you, so be you governed by the modest Ladies of the Land, and give no ear to wicked Counsel, or to such as would move you to disloyalty: For you are the Creature that I

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have

have always dearest loved in all the world; wherefore, if I should hear tidings other then good from you, or of you, it would be the only cause to take away my life. After this, he gave unto his Sister many worthy gifts, and so embracing and kissing her, with weeping eyes, he left her to the mercy of the waves. The young Lady, whose heart being overcharg'd betwixt joy and fear, was not able to answer a word; and what with tears and sighs, the passage of her tongue was utterly stopt. Then all the Lords and Ladies took their leave of each other, at which was let fall many a brinish tear, as well on their parts of France, as they also that were to go for Constantinople; but especially for the departure of the fair Lady Bellifant. All duties of Love being ended, King Pepin returned into France, and the Emperour by this time, mounted upon the Seas, had wind and water at such will & pleasure, that within short space, he with all his Train, arriv'd with safety at Constantinople; where, at their landing, they were all receiv'd with great joy, honour, and triumph; all which here were needless to recount. But mark what hapned, not long after these joys and triumphs were clean extinguish'd, that were made for the Lady Bellifant, in place whereof, nothing but mournings, lamentations, and tears were placed, and all for the poor Lady, which by treason and false accusations, was cast out and banish'd, as hereafter more at large you shall perceive.

Chap. II. How the Arch-priest of Constantinople betrayed the Emperour, his Lord and Master, in making love to fair Bellifant the Empress; and what evil followed thereupon. The Arch-priest having received a repluse of Bellifant, to save his own Honour, practis'd treason against the Innocent Lady.

IN Constantinople liv'd an Arch-priest, in whom the Emperour put such trust, and loved so fervently, that he bestow'd upon him great riches & possessions, and committed all his bosom-thoughts unto his secrecy: And in the end made him sole Governour and Commander over all his house; as also, he was the Emperour's principal Confessor, and one of his greatest favourites, for which he afterwards had many a sorrowful heart. The Bishop forgetting all the Emperour's favours, and great honours done unto him, being intangled and overcome with the beauty of the new Empress, which excelled all mortal Creatures, inordinate lust prevail'd with him so far, that there was nothing stood in his way, save only fit time and opportunity to settle this his determination: At last it chanced, that he espy'd her all alone, sitting solitarily in her Chamber, which this Arch-priest well observing, he came in and sat down by her: At last he began to behold her with

a smiling and jesting countenance, of all which (the Lady mistrusted nothing) for that he very well remembered his greatness with the Emperor, & his familiarity in the house; and she never so much as once dream'd or thought such an evil thought, as that he thereby would colour so filthy an act, as to motion her to dishonour, especially towards the Emperor, his worthy Lord and Master, who so dearly esteemed of him, & so much affected him. But there is never more danger like to ensue, then when one of the same house intendeth treason. But at the last, after many gestures of impurity, and sitting still by this worthy and vertuous Lady, he began to utter his lascivious thoughts on this manner.

Right dear and Sovereign Lady (said he) I am your Servant and Chaplain, therefore I beseech you not to stop your ears, but rather set them wide open to hear my rude words, especially, for that I am burnt up in affection towards your fair Person, and for whose love I have suffered intolerable torments in my fiery bosom: Know therefore, my redoubted Lady) that the beauty of your admirable person, and the supernal form wherein you are framed and composed, hath even ravished my spirits, broken my heart, split my whole senses in sunder, and quite bereft me of all rest, both by night & day, and only with dotting upon your peerless beauty. Again (fair Lady) my meat, drink, manners, yea, and my very countenance; insomuch, that only my request, and prayers unto the Gods, is even this; that they would so enchant that heart of yours, that you would at length give consent unto me, your Vassal, that I might not only serve you, but also delight you in all those pleasures you are ordained unto. Al, Lady, you refuse me, and cast me off, denying these my unrestless thoughts (than which nothing will sooner cut my heart in sunder) I can look for nothing but present death, and rather covet therein to be locked fast, as in a prison, than receive a denial from those your fair lips. Alas! (fair Lady) you are renowned in all the gifts of Nature: Fair, Amiable, Courteous, Gentle, and also Pious; be not then the cause that I should determine my life by losing your love, but rather grant what I desire, and thereby make me for ever yours in hearty affection. But, fair Lady, happily you will urge, how dare you to offend the Gods in this unlawful act? To this fair Lady, I answer, I am one of the Vicars of the gods upon Earth, and therefore it wholly rests in my power, to absolve you of your sins, and enjoin your Penitence; which, trust me Lady, shall fall out to be but very easie, so you grant me love.

These speeches of his being ended, the Lady thereunto, out of a grave and prudent Carriage, made unto this perjur'd Priest, this excellent re-
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tion and answer: Ah! thou false, unjust, disloyal, and devilish Priest, stain to all thy Profession: How dar'st thou once open thy perjured mouth to such a mass of villanies, as thereon may ensue? First, as I may say, against the sacred Order. Secondly, but most principally, against the Majesty of that Emperour that ever nourished thee in the bond of tender compassion and love, and hath raised thee to great dignities, far unfit for such a Devil-incarnate: And from whom may justly proceed the sentence of condemnation, both on thee and me, if he should but understand thy lascivious and wicked practises. Thou (I say) Devil, and worse than Devil, thou that should'st be unto me instruction, and also a Guide to my life and conversation; in this thou goest about my utter ruin and destruction, by thy evil conditions, even beyond that good expectation which the Emperour trusteth to be in thee; I never grant (O ye Gods) that the Blood of France, from whence I am descended, nor the Emperour, my loving Lord, should be so dishonoured either by me in my body, or through my privacy in any other manner. O false accursed Man, behold whereunto thou would'st deliver me: First, unto the utter ruine and spoil of mine honour; next, shut up my body in unremovable shame for ever among Men; and lastly, bring my soul into the Jaws of Death and the Devil. Let fall, I say, all these thy vile and devilish provocations to lust, and leave for ever hereafter to solicit me, or any other vertuous Creature in this manner, which if thou further prosecute unto me, then can'st thou look for nothing but a shameful downfall, and a most damnable death. Therefore with this answer depart, and see that ye attempt me no more.

This angry farewell, of the worthy Emperess, stung the Priest at the very heart, but at that time durst make no further reply unto the fair Lady concerning love, but as a Man all composed of rage and great fury, he then departed, discontent at this his most unfortunate and unhappy chance. At the last, when he could no longer hold, he excused himself unto the Lady, craving pardon for these his bold, lawless, and rash follies committed, but yet could find no remedy to restore his honour. Thus being sore troubled in mind, divers and sundry waies he resolved what to do upon revenge against this Innocent, which he accordingly effected by treason against the Lady: And seeing the Emperour knew nothing in this matter from the Emperess Bellifant; how the Arch-priest would have enticed her to dishonour, and would have drawn her to disloyalty to the Emperour, but he could not; therefore he began to accuse her unto the Emperour for divers crimes: The Arch-priest having now begun to set abroad his devilish practises, began to think him how he might effect what he had determined, and also

preserve the reputation of his former honours which the Emperour had bestowed upon him; whereupon at last he resolved, that he would cunningly, under the Cloak of dissimulation, bear fair weather towards the Emperour, as also seemed to shew how great a care he had of his preservation, and to make known his loyalty and watchful care that he had towards the welfare of his Estate and Person: So it befel, that on a day when he espied a fit opportunity, and taking the Emperour all alone, he began to break with him on this manner:

Right High and Mighty Emperour, and my very good Lord and Master, I cannot chuse but recount and highly esteem of the many and innumerable favours, and great kindness which I have alwaies received from your mighty Highness: Wherefore, as duty doth alwaies bind me, I am ever most watchful over the passages of your Estate, in which I now stand by you appointed; but especially in that you have made me sole Commander in your house, and therein trusted me above all other: Therefore, it is my duty, to betray unto you all those carriages that any way concern your High and Mighty Person; wherefore I beseech your Highness to give ear to that which I shall now disclose unto you, for I had rather suffer all the torments of death, than for to hide any thing from you; and the rather, for that it nearly toucheth your Person and Honour: O Emperour! thus it is, Bellisant, your Wife, and Sister to the King of France, she whom you have advanced to this State and Dignity, faileth in the duty and loyalty which she oweth unto her dread Lord; for she wandreth in her love, giveth that unto another, which is proper only to your self: To name the Person unto your Majesty I will not, for you know I am a sacred Prince and may not seek the blood of any Man; but yet, know for certain, that by the way of Confession, I came unto the light thereof, whereof I neither ought nor will betray the name of him that thus usurps your Bed: But let it suffice, there is not a more unclean and lascivious Woman liveth in your Court or Kingdom, whereby your Life is in danger, your Honour defamed, and my duty towards you approb'd by what I have told you. My advice therefore is, to be wary of your Person, and correct this her folly, but yet mildly and wisely, alwaies with the preservation of your Honour. For will it not be a great shame among the Princes of the Earth, that you, having taken a Wife, Sister to a great King, one who for her Beauty is incomparable, her Nobleness and Wisdom is not to be outshined by any earthly Lady, and she to prove a Whore? And what worse is, one who daily defileth your Bed; which grieves my heart to think upon.

The Emperor having heard this long Accusation, little mistrusted the treachery of this Arch-priest, and gave Credit to all his fair but false words, and therewith he became extreme penitent and sad: That his trust in her beauteous love, had been thus deceived. At last, having many days in several places uttered forth many discontented gestures, words and sighs, & many grievous acclamations, even in the Imperial Palace, he gave rest a while unto his discontented Passions: But wakened Revenge to wait upon a fitter opportunity. And upon a day, entering into the Chamber of his fair Lady Belisant, without speaking any word to her at all, in a most fierce, rude, and unmannerly order, took his Lady by the Head, and pulling her by the Hair, he dragged her about the Chamber, throwing her on the Ground in such a horrid manner, that the Blood be-mear'd her Face in most inhumane sort. She receiving from her Lord such unlookt for welcome, cried out in a lamentable manner, and as well as she was able, began to say. Alas! (my dear Lord) what moveth You to this unwelcome Outrage? I call all the Gods to witness, I never did any thing in my life, either against your Honour or Life, or ever Prostituted my Body to any Stranger's love. The Emperor not being thus satisfied, replied, saying, thou Whore, I am too well informed of thy proceedings; and cursed be the day and hour that ever I saw thy deceitful Face; and therewithal, without all pity, dashed her Head against the ground, leaving her speechless, insomuch that all the Damscels, her Attendants, thought she had been quite bereft of life. Upon this, there arose up in the Court a most pitiful Outcry, which the Counsellors and other Attendants, in the Court hearing, ran speedily to the Chamber, whereas they found this Lady in a Trance; at which disaster, all amazed, some ran to take up the Dead body of the Empress, others took upon them to speak to the Emperor, thinking thereby to stay the fury of this undeserved Rage, whose words unto him were as followeth: Alas! (O dread Sovereign) what may be the cause of this your sudden Passion, in delibering unto danger of Death, this so modest, chaste, and noble Lady? A Lady so beloved of all Degrees, and in whom was never seen the least spark of Dishonour, neither towards You, nor any in this Empire: Wherefore our request unto You is, that You would moderate Your wrong-conceived Anger against this harmless Lady. The Emperor nothing for all this Relenting, answered, speak no more, for I know, I see, I hear how cunningly she hath deluded me; therefore move me no further, for I am fully purposed to deliver her over to Death; and he or they who all here unto gainsay, I shall make him partaker in Death with this wicked and dishonest Strumpet. These words were no sooner uttered, but up
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rose a worthy, wise, courageous and bold Baron, and speak unto the Emperour after this manner: Right worthy Sir, I could wish you to be well advised before you proceed further against this Lady, who is your espoused Wife, Sister to a great King, namely, Pepin, King of France, who, when he shall hear of this great wrong done unto her, will out of a Courageous heart, and a Brotherly affection, muster up all his Men of War, and suddenly surprize all our Towns, Castles and Children, forgetting mercy, and only pursuing Revenge upon us for these Merciless and Cruel Deeds unto his Sister. Again, consider on the other side, that the Lady is great with Child, therefore it is dangerous so Rudely to Smite and Wound her on this manner, wherein you have proceeded against her. The worthy Baron having thus ended his Advice, the Lady suddenly fell upon her Knees before the Emperour, and in Tears very submissive and lamentable thus she spake:

Alas! (my Lord) take pity on an Innocent Lady, for I am so free from any evil act, as I never so much as thought any evil against your Person or Dignity: At least, my Lord, if your compassion be quite distinct from pitying me, yet pity the Fruit of my body, for I am great with Child by you, of which the Gods grant me a joyful delivery. If nothing can appease your anger towards me, then let my body be Impison'd in some strong Tower, till the time of my Delivery: And then do with my body what pleaseth you, so the Fruit of my body may be kept safe. In this dolorous passion she proceeded so far, that what with her sighs and tears following one another; it would have grieved the stoniest heart that ever rested in the bosom of the vilest Tyrant that ever Reigned. All this nothing moved the hard-hearted Emperour, who was so wholly bewitched with the false and Traiterous Accusation of the Arch-priest, that all Lenity set apart, he burst out in this manner: Thou false Strumpet, the Child thou goest withal is to me no Joy, but rather Dishonour; for thy Disloyalty hath made such a separation between us, that noting thy Dissolute life, thou hast made another Partner in my love. The Courtiers perceiving nothing could mitigate the Rage of the Emperour, by a common consent removed her out of his Presence into another Chamber, shewing unto her all the labour they could, both in Action and Gesture, although her fair Face was sore deformed and besmeared with Blood. Having thus conveyed her away, the Ladies that were Attendants, fetched water to wash her Face, and did all they could to Revive her ever-dying Spirits, Being thus in another Chamber, in comes Blandiman her Squire, who beholding her in this disfigured manner, for very pity the water trickled down his cheeks, and

and at the last began his speech in this manner. Ah! Madam, I plainly see that you are Traiterously handled, and wish that the Gods would throw down their Malignant Curses upon that Person that hath thus purchased your extreame miseries: But, gentle Lady, take comfort unto you, and trust me, if you will be Ruled by me, I will Conduct you back again into France, towards your Brother's, who gave me and my service unto you, to attend you in all these Misfortunes; all which I will, to the utmost of my power, undertake. Sweet Lady, follow my Counsel, and free your self out of Danger; for be you assured, that if here you stay, the Emperour will prosecute Revenge upon you, and in the end bring you to a shameful Death. Unto this the sorrowful Lady made this Reply: Ah! Blandiman, I know thy faithful service towards me; but yet if I should follow thy advice, and steal out of this Country secretly, it would argue me Guilty of all that the Emperour throweth upon me, and thereby yield me guilty of the Deed. Believe me, Servant, I had rather Die all the Deaths the World can put upon me, than to bear the blame of that wherein I am Innocent.

By this time the Emperour's choler was somewhat pacified, by means of his Lords and Barons that attended, insomuch that he caused Bellisant to be quickly brought before him; when she was come, his heart trembled and trembled for very anger that he durst not put her to Death, fearing the great puissance and might of her Brother, King Pepin; and therefore burst forth into these speeches: Thou false and accursed Woman, by whom mine Honour is brought in question: I take the gods to witness, were it not for thy Brother's sake, the Valiant Pepin, King of France, I would make thee fly in the fire, as an Example to all fair Ladies; but, for his sake, I spare thy life; stand forth and hear thy Judgment, I Banish thee out of my Country and Empire; expressly commanding, that without any delay, to morrow thou depart out of this City, and if thou be seen here any more, I assure thee thou shalt suffer Death in all extremity. Also, I charge and command, that none of my Country dare be once so bold as to give aid, or accompany you, save only your Servant Blandiman, whom you brought with you out of France. So, get thee presently out of my sight, for thou shalt never more sleep in my Bosom. The Emperour having pronounced sentence against her, the Emperess Bellisant, accompanied with her Servant Blandiman, speedily hasted to horse. Being thus mounted, and then passing through the fair City towards one of the gates thereof, there met her People in great multitudes, of degrees, much lamenting the loss of so fair a Lady, and so good an Emperess. When she came to the utmost part, even ready to go out of the Gates of the City, there was heard such a lamentable howl.

howling of mournful voices, that the like before was never heard in the City of Constantinople. When she was out of the walls of the City, and just entered into the wide fields, she began to fall into a womanly fit of bitter weeping, to see how shameful and dishonourable she was handled causeless: Again, to think upon her Birth, and the Imperial Dignity from whence she was fallen, as also to account the misfortune wherein she was like to finish the rest of her days, it drove her at last from tears to utter her griefs in these words: Alas! in what unhappy hour was I born, to fall from so high an Estate to so low an Object of Poverty as I am now in? Woe is me the unhappiest among Women, now are all my Fortunes turn'd topsie-turvy, my laughter is turn'd into weeping, my songs converted into sighs; instead of cloath of Gold, wherewith I was wont to be cloathed, now I am glad of all manner of mean Attire; my precious stones of Inestimable Value are all taken from me, and Pearls of Tears stand over all my Garments. O ye Fields and Woods, to you I make my moan, for other Company I have none, consider my Exile, and help to bewail my Misfortune: Would the Gods had pitied my distress, and made me the poorest among Creatures, then had not Fortune given me so foul a fall; at least, my Poor Estate would never have grieved me: Wherefore doth the beautiful Sun send forth his beams on a Wretch so miserable? Why doth the Earth bear such a Creature, that is composed of Calamities? It is not possible for my Tongue to tell out my Hearts sorrow: O wretched Man (whatsoever thou art) that by thy wicked Treason hath brought me to this downfall; I may well curse thee with bitterness of heart, for by thee only am I made thus Unfortunate. Ah! my Brother, what shouldest thou do with such a woful Wight to thy Sister: It had been better I had never been born, than that I should prove such a stain to thy Kingly House. As she was thus complaining to her sacred heart, the anguish thereof struck her into a swoond as she sat on horseback, and was like at that instant to have fallen off her Horse, e'er her Servant could alight and recover her; but he used all the speediest means for her Recovery; at last, she coming unto her self again, he said unto her: Alas, Madam, be not discomfited, neither let despair so far seize upon you, but trust ye that the Gods will keep and defend you, for they are ready to aid and assist the Innocent. Having thus spoken, he suddenly spied a Fountain, towards which, he and his Lady took their way, and being come thereunto, he set her down thereby, to ease and refresh her over-tired senses. Here at this spring leave we the Lady and her Squire, and turn we now to the traitorous Arch-priest, who was the cause of all these treacherous and evil Practises.

Chap. III. How the Arch-priest put on him the Habit of a Knight at Arms, and being well mounted, followed the Empress Bellisant, who was lately Banished. How Bellisant, in her Banishment, was Delivered of two fair Sons in the Wood, whose Names were Valentine and Dion, and how she lost them.

THE Arch-priest having now wrought the banishment of faire Bellisant, thought with himself now he should surely accomplish his desire: Wherefore, in all haste, he changed his white Rocket into a Coat of Steel, and begirt unto him a Sword; and being thus Accoutred, he suddenly was mounted upon a milk white Steed, the fairest that could be had in all Constantinople: Being thus mounted, he made after her with all expedition, enquiring of all he met which way the Lady Bellisant was taken; who gladly told him which way she had passed. After some few hours Riding, at last he came to a great spacious Forrest and very long, taking the direct way towards the Lady. It chanced that as he was Riding forward, casting his Eye aside, he presently espied the Lady with her Servant Blandiman, sitting by a Fountain full of heabiness, lamenting her miserable fortunes; Blandiman using all the means he could to Comfort her. This false Priest from forth his Beaver, well perceived it to be the Lady; but by reason of his Disguise, he could not imagine him to be the Arch-priest, her Enemy; but coming nearer her, she soon discerned him, and being struck with a sudden fear, speak thus to her Servant: Alas, quoth she, I well perceive this to be the false Arch-priest that thus cometh towards us, of whom I am exceeding fearful, lest he be come to do me further Willany. Lady (said Blandiman) banish fear, for if he come after us to do you further harm, I will encounter him body for body, even as long as life lasteth. By this time that they had ended their speech to each other, the Arch-priest was ready to alight from his Horse to salute the Lady in all Courteous behaviour; and after he had made himself known unto her, he began to say unto her after this manner:

Right dear Lady, and our late honoured Empress, since then thy case is so pitiful, as to suffer Banishment by Sentence given against thee by the Emperour; so it is, That if thou wilt give me Entertainment in thy Lodge, accept me into thy Favour, and to grant me what I have long sought at thy hands; I will bring it to pass that the Emperour shall again recal thy Banishment, and make thy greatness of State shine more bright than ever before. Therefore advise you well; for I protest, what I offer to you, is only tending to your good and advancement. Ah! (quoth the Lady)

thou

thou disloyal and traiterous Adversary, I have no great cause to bestow love where my life hath been put in Jeopardy. It is only thou that hast wrought my overthrow, and thou it is, that makest me to spend the remnant of my days in more misery than ever Lady is able to endure. Lady (quoth he) utter not forth such Curses against me, for I am come to you, not to vex or trouble you, but to heap upon you more Joys than ever you as yet in all your life enjoyed. And in speaking these words, he bended his body to the Lady, thinking to have Kissed her; but Blandiman perceiving his intent, suddenly started between them, and gave the Arch-priest so mighty a stroke, that he felled him to the Earth, and with the violence of the blow, broke out one of his Teeth: The Priest had no sooner recovered himself, but suddenly took him to his Sword, which Blandiman perceiving, took to him a Glave which he had about him; whereupon grew a sore and dangerous Fight between them: This Encounter lasted so long, that they were both Wounded, but still they continued Fighting, till at last it chanced a Merchant came by that way, who, perceiving afar off their fierce Encounter, cried out with a loud Voice in this manner: Lords (quoth he) leave off, and shew the cause of this your Variance, and I will endeavour to end this Controversie. Sir, quoth Blandiman, let us first try our Right by our Weapons, and afterwards we will be Ruled by Lords. But the poor Lady could no longer bear Silence, but began to tell the Merchant as followeth: Alas! (quoth she) as you ever pityed Woman, pity my Case; for this Man whom here you see armed, is the false and traiterous Arch-priest, that hath followed me to Rob me of mine Honour, and force me to his wicked and unsatiable lust; also, this is he that hath made a separation between me and the Emperor, my Lord and Husband. The Merchant hearing her lamentable Tale, pityed her misery, and began thus unto the Arch-priest: Sir Priest, leave off your Enterprize, and dare not so much as to touch this Innocent Lady; for if the Emperor did but understand this Willany, he would soon end thy life in infamy, as thou well deservest. As soon as the Arch-priest had heard his speech, he forsook his Combat, and fled as fast as he could through the Wood, for fear of being further known, being prevented of his purpose towards the Lady; though he conveyed his body out of sight, yet his villanies were afterward disclosed. After his departure the Lady was forced to stay still in the Wood, all sorrowful, with her wounded Servant. The Merchant staid with them some little time, bewailing the hard hap of the Lady, yet comforted her, saying, Alas! Lady, I see that this Arch-priest hath fallibly betrayed you, and brought you in hatred with the Emperor; but I will promise you, that

if I live I will betray all these Treacheries to the Emperour, and bring the Traitor to a shameful Death; and so, taking leave, I commend you to the Gods; wishing that in these Extremities you would be Patient, and Comfort your self in these your sorrows: So with many thanks for his aid from Blandiman, the Merchant departed. The Merchant having left them, Blandiman set the Lady upon her Horse, and himself on his, so Riding on together, they came unto a Lodging lying in their way, where they remained eight days, during which time her Servant was Recovered of his Wounds, and then set forward towards France; the Lady still sorrowful and complaining in this manner: Alas! Blandiman, what may my Brother and the Peers of France think of this, when they shall understand that I am expelled Greece for such a Dishonourable Deed; and as a Common Harlot, Banished from the Emperour of Constantino-ple? Alas! I am perswaded that the King, my Brother, will easily be- lieve that I am Guilty of the Deed, and in his Anger deliver me over to a shameful Death. Lady (quoth he) be not thus discouraged, but trust in the Gods, who will Revenge your Injury, and pay it home upon the Offenders Head. During the time of these discourses, they had passed many Countries and Regions, till at last they came into France, and pas- sing by Orleance, they took their way towards Paris, where King Pepin was accustomed to Sojourn. So entering into a Forrest near unto Orle- ance; there hapned new miseries unto this Empress, of which more here- after ensueth.

Bellissant (as before you heard) being with Child, was suddenly overtaken in the Forrest; the time of her Delivery being come, caused her to for- sake her Horse, and begin to complain to her Servant on this manner: Alas! (quoth she) help, help, I say, to lay me down softly under yonder great Tree; and when I am laid, make haste and find me the help of Wo- men, wheresoever thou canst get any, for I can go no further, my Pains so much Increase upon me. Blandiman, her Servant, did as she com- manded, and for that he knew not how to find the same place again, he set a special Mark, that he might the Readier come thither again; and so be- taking him to Horse, he Rode forth swiftly to seek some Woman to help this distressed Lady. He being gone, the Lady was left Comfortless all alone without succour of any Creature, so that at last she was Delivered of two fair Sons in the Dissolate Forrest: These Children were no sooner come into the World, but a fresh Misery, worse than all the rest that she had Endured, happened to this Lady; for as she lay upon the Earth under

the

the Tree, and her two Infants by her, suddenly came to her a huge Bear, most terrible to behold, and took up one of the Infants in her mouth, and with great pace hasted into the thickest of the Forrest: This strange and unlookt for accident, frightened the distressed Lady to the Soul, that she



cried out most lamentably, getting upon her hands and feet, to hasten after the Bear, which was quickly got out of her sight. But, alas! it little availed her to make any further pursuit, for she never came unto the sight of the Child, till by Miracle it was at length disclosed. So long wandered this Lady up and down from place to place, weeping and crying out for her Child, that being over-wearied with Trabel, she fell into a great sickness, insomuch that at last she was thereby near deprived of her life, and immediately fell into a swoon upon the cold Earth, as if she had yielded up the Ghost. In this Extasie, leave we her, and now proceed to the other Child, which she left under the Tree:

It hapned the same day that her Brother, King Pepin, had taken his journey from Paris, (accompanied with divers great Lords and Barons) towards Constantinople, to visit his Sister, Bellisant; and striking

through Orleance, he made such hast, that he entred into the same Forrest, whereas his banished Sister was lately Delivered of her two Children, but knowing nothing what hapned. Now as the King passed through this Forrest, he espied, lying under a Tree alone, the other Son of Bellisant, which, when he saw, he said unto his Attendants: My Lords, by the appointment of the Gods, loe, I have here found a faire Encounter, even a Child. By the Gods (said the Lords) you say truth. Why, said the King, take it up, and it shall be brought up at my Charge so long as it liveth, and it shall want no manner of Attendance, but be used as it were mine own: For if it lives until it comes to Man's Estate, I'll endow it with Lands and Possessions after the most Noblest manner. And therewith, calling to one of the Squires, gave him the whole chare thereof, saying to him on this manner: Hold thee, bare thou this Infant to Orleance, see it Baptized, provide a good Nurse for it, and let it want nothing appertaining thereunto. The King little suspected that this Child was his Nephew. The Esquire, as the King had before commanded him, bore the Child to Orleance, caused it to be Baptized, and gave it his own Name, called Valentine. After he sought out a Nurse for the Child, and gave it great Attendance, according to the King's command. This done, the King proceeded on his Journey towards Constantinople, to see his lovely and beautiful Sister Bellisant; but e'er he could pass through the Forrest, he chanced to meet with Blandiman, accompanied with a Woman that he had gotten to accompany his Lady, in her greatest extremity of Child-birth: Blandiman espying the King, knew him, and suddenly alighted from his Horse, doing his duty unto him; the King perceiving it to be Blandiman, asked, what good News from Constantinople? And above the rest, how doth our Sister, Bellisant? Blandiman answered, most Gracious Sovereign, I bring you but little tydings, yet those I bring are bitter and sharp: For, amongst the rest, I must tell you strange News of your loving Sister, and how she fares: Wherefore, so it is, that by force of Treason, and false Suggestion of the Curled Arch-priest of Constantinople, your Sister is Banished out of the Emperors Court and Dominions; and but for the great mercy of the Lords of the Emperors Court, and others, she had been publickly put to Death, and burnt to Ashes in the sight of all the People. King Pepin having heard the lamentable Relation of Blandiman's Report, being exceeding outrageous and fierce in Anger, and yet sorrowful withal, brake out in speech most bitterly against her on this manner: Now, by the Gods, quoth he, I hold the Emperors no upright Judge, in that he spared the Life of my Sister: For I swear, that

if I had her here now in my Possession, I would not Rest, till by Death I had made her an Example to all false Ladies, while the World endureth. And therewithal, commanded all his Train of Lords, and others, to stay their Journey, and make their Return back again to Paris: For the grievous offences of my Sister, here stays my Journey; and so he departed, without asking any more questions; but turning his Horse's head, sorrow over came his Courage, and at last made him break forth into these words: Ha! (quoth he) how many Men are deceived in Women: Now am I utterly prevented of all my purposes, for my only hope Rested in the Modesty of my Sister Bellissant; yea, and in her stood all my joys and pleasure: Again, to have had the Emperour Alexander still my Brother, and fast Friend at all Affaires, and in all my Necessities was my only Hope and Joy of heart; and now, behold, by her I'm Disappointed, Defamed, and shut out into eternal Dishonour. And so in that distrust and melancholly, King Pepin Returned towards Orleance. When Blandiman perceived the Courage of the King to be thus Daunted, he durst Relate no further News of the Lady Bellissant; but, leaving the King, took his way towards the Tree where he lately left her in great pain of Child-birth; being come thither, he sought her every-where, but could hear no tidings of her: wherefore being sorrowful, he knew not what way to take. Being in this Extasie, at last he tyed his Horse to a Thorn-tree, and began to make a closer search than before; wherein he was so Vigilant, that anon he espied her, finding her flat upon the Earth, in a manner speechless, for very grief of heart she had lost her Child, which the Bear had bore away from her. Blandiman being glad, that now at last he had found her, kindly Embraced her, and taking her up in his Arms from the cold Earth, set her upon her feet, and began thus unto her: Alas! (dear Lady and Mistress) how happened you to stray thus far from the place I left you in?

The Lady looking upon him with a ghastly Countenance, Replied thus. Ah, Blandiman! my dolours and distresses daily increase upon me; for when we were no sooner gone to get me the help of some Woman-kind, but, I being Delivered of two Babes, a Ravenous Bear from the Forrest assailed me, and bore away one of them; I, although weak, making what poor shift I was able, followed that Ravenous Beast, thinking by strong hand to have Recovered again my loss, but all in vain, I could not overtake the Bear, nor, wanting my strength, Recover back again to the Tree, where I left my other Infant. Lady (quoth he) the other Infant! Why, I myself but lately came from the Tree, and I am well assured that there lay no Infant there, nor near thereabout. Now (quoth the Lady) no Child

under

under the Tree? With these words she was so inwardly wounded, that she fell down in a Stound; which Blandiman espying, saved her (in what he could) and fell into byrinish tears for sorrow, to see his Lady so extreemly plunged, and oberwhelmed, and at last led her towards the Tree, where she had left the Child; but when she saw the other Child also gone, think then what dolour of heart the poor Lady endured; in the midst of all which sorrows she thus belpake: Alas (quoth she) can there be in the World a more desolate Wretch? on every side compassed with grief, yea, and all unsupportable sorrows. But, alas, Emperour, thou art the cause, and hast been the only means to deliver me ober even to Death, and that wrongfully, without cause on my part, and only by deceivable Counsel hast thou bereft me of thy Company; but here I call all the Gods to witness, that I was never faulty to thee in my body, nor disobedient unto thee in any point; wherefore, once again I am forced to cry out for Vengeance upon the Offender's head, whosoever: First, for my Disgrace; next for my Banishment; and now, lastly, for the loss of my two Babes issued from the Blood-Royal of the Emperour of Constantinople. But seeing all these miseries have been tyred themselves upon my very heart, come Death, and finish what sorrows do but prolong. All this while Blandiman was Ear-witness of all these piteous plaints, insomuch that he grew even weary of her walling, and in the best manner he could, comforted her dying spirits, by falling to intreat her, that she would somewhat give ober her moans, and betake herself to her Feet: Whereupon she gave consent, he accompanied with a Woman he had brought with him, came into a Neighbouring Village, whereas they lodged and nourished her, till she had partly Recovered her strength, and in some measure forgotten the depth of her miseries. Blandiman began to break with his Lady on this manner: Lady (quoth he) it was my chance in looking you in the Woods, to light upon your Brother, King Pepin, who demanded of me what Tydings? But his brows were frowny, and full of anger against you; wherefore my Counsel is, that you make not towards him, for by that countenance I well perceive, you shall have but slender welcome: For upon further Questions demanded, and answered, so soon as he heard me tell that the Emperour had Exiled you, he lightly gave Credit that yours was the Fault, and therefore he lays all the blame on you. O! (quoth the Lady) now what I most feared is come to pass; and I well perceive that I am beset with Adversaries on every side: Well, be it as it may be; the Emperour hath Exiled me without cause: What then shall I do? I will never Return again to Paris, but take my way into some Remote Land, where my body with my faults shall be smothered;

thered; for my Brother's anger is grown so great that he could willingly deliver me over to Death; therefore it is better to fly and to save my life then fall into the fury of so Angry a Brother. This doleful speech she delivered in Tears; which Blandiman perceiving, said unto her, Lady, leave off your Tears, for be assured of my Faithful fidelity; and here I offer my self, life, and all to be at your Service, go whither you please. Why then (quoth the Lady) since thou art so Resolute, let us Resolve upon some strange Adventure, and therewithal passed forth to expose themselves to future dangers, where now we shall be forced to leave them with sorrowful hearts, and return again to speak something of the bear, that carried away one of the Children.

Chap. 4. Of the Bear that bore away one of the Children.

THE Bear (as you have heard before) that had carried away one of the Children, all this while had offered it no violence, but bare it unto her cave, which was dark and obscure: In this Cave the old Bear had four young ones, amongst whom she laid the Child to be devoured, but mark the chance, and you shall find it at last miraculous; for all this while the young bears did it no harm, but with their rough paws stroaked it softly. The old bear perceiving they did not devour it, shewed a bearish kind of favour toward it: insomuch, that she kept it, and gave it suck among her young ones, the space of one whole year. This child, by reason of the nourishment it received, became rough all over like a beast; and as he grew in strength, began to range up and down in the woods, and when he met with other beasts would smite them, and got such mastery over them, that they began to shun the place wherein he came, he was so extream fierce amongst them: And in this beast-like estate, passeth he the term of fifteen years, growing up to such strength, that scarce any man or beast in the forest durst stir abroad, fearing to fall into his hands, lest he should put them to death, and after eat their flesh; more like unto a ravenous wild beast, than any Humane Creature: His name was call'd Orson, because a bear had been his Nurse, and also was grown rough like a bear. This Bear-man lived so long in the forest, that none (were he never so hardy) durst abide his presence: The renown of this Wild-man grew so great, and spread so far abroad, over all the Realm of France, that they of the Country round about chased and hunted him, but prevailed not, for he never feared weapons nor engines, but passed through them all, snapping them in pieces: All this time he abode in the forest, you must understand, he neither wore Garment, nor had any kind of Speech.

Here we leave the Wild-man in the forest, and look a little what became of the Lady bellifant, and her Servant blandiman; and we shall suddenly find them wandering and travelling through divers Lands and Countries; the Lady ever remembering and bewailing the loss of her two Children, wishing that if it were possible, they might be still in safety. But in the midst of her sorrowful wishes, yet passed on her weary journey, sometime by sea, sometime by land, till at length she came to a Port in Portugal, on the which did stand an invincible Castle, kept by a Giant, called Ferragus, so great, and of such puissance, that there was not a horse to be found could bear the living trunk of this Giant. It so happened at this Castle, that every ship that passeth by this Port, was to pay tribute to this Giant, which he himself did daily come aboard to receive. At length he came into the ship, wherein the lady bellifant, and her Squire had passed (for she was laden with all manner of rich Merchandise) so casting his eyes about, he espied bellifant, which he kindly took by the hand, and led her into the castle to his wife (for he was married to a beautiful lady) blandiman followed his lady also, fearing the Giant, but he behaved himself so nobly, that he did not offer her any violence, but presented her to his wife, who received her gladly, and had great joy at the gracious presence of so beautiful a lady. The Giant having charged his wife to use her and blandiman her Squire honourably. During her abode in the Castle, she would often shed tears, when she thought her of the loss of her two Children; which the lady of the Castle perceiving, would often comfort her in the best manner he could, and ever placed her next her own person, for the joy and pleasure that she ever took in her company. Within this Castle she tarried a long time, and here we must leave her, and now we will return back again to tell you somewhat of the Emperour of Constantinople, and the false Arch-priest.

Chap. V. How, by the Counsel of the Arch-priest, new Customs, and Taxations were raised through the city of Constantinople; and how the treason came to light. How the Emperour, by the Counsel of his Nobility, sent for King Pepin, to see the Combate fought between the Arch-priest and the Merchant.

The Emperour having shamefully expelled bellifant his wife, oftentimes repented him of the fact: But by the cursed counsel of the Arch-priest, unto whose words he gave such credit continually, that what he spake, was an Oracle in the Ears of the said Emperour: Inasmuch, that he continually

ally heaped new honours upon that traiterous Priest, advancing him even above the highest in the Empire; and whatsoever he commanded was effected. At last, having gotten all power and authority in his hands, he began to enhance the customs and taxes of the City of Constantinople; which exactions of his, against all reason, struck even to the very hearts of the Inhabitants. Among the Residue of these his forced impositions (it hapned, that according to their yearly Customs) there was held a great Fair in the City, which falls out about the month of September: Whereunto Resorted many People for diverse occasions, aspecially Merchants. The Fair or Fair-day being come, the Emperour gave the Charge thereof unto this Arch-priest, who accordingly provided himself, and to the same purpose, Armed two hundred Men to guard his own person: Being thus accompanied, he took his way into the City, to effect this new Charge, which the Emperour had bestowed on him. It chanced so, that among the Rest of them that sold Wares, the Merchant was there present (of whom you have heard before) namely, he that came Riding by the way which blandiman (the distressed lady bellifants Esq;) and the treacherous Arch-priest was fighting. The Arch-priest perceived him well enough, but would take no knowledge of him, for he was very fearful, lest all his villainy should come to light. The presence of this Merchant much troubled the Arch-priest, insomuch, as he wished (if it were possible) his death, and would assuredly have effected the same, by the Authority that he now had in his hands; but still he feared some great Tumult would arise thereby. Now mark what followed: The Merchant, among the Rest, was richly furnished with costly wares; as cloath of Gold, Silver, Silk, &c. Whereby he received great Wealth, and took more money than any five Merchants beside: The Fair being ended, the Arch-priest sent forth his Officers, to demand and Receive his accustomed Duties, due upon the Sale of those Merchandizes: One Officer came unto this Merchant, and said, Sir, you must pay ten-pence on every pound that you have taken, for so it is ordained by the Great Officer to whom it belong. The Merchant hereat being angry, said, Cursed be that disloyal Arch-priest, for he is the only cause of these new-raised exactions: It had been good for all men, if he had long since had his desert, and with shame and infamy had ended his Days. At which reproachful words against the Arch-priest, the Officer took his staff, and smote the Merchant on the Head, that presently the blood gushed out. Then the Merchant, feeling the blood about his ears, drew his sword, and struck so hard upon the Officer, that he laid him at his feet for dead. Upon this arose a great rout throughout the Fair, insomuch,

that the rest of the Officers coming up to help their Fellow, took the Merchant, and brought him before the Arch-priest: The Arch-priest, glad of this opportunity, would suddenly have put him to death; but the Merchant appealed to Justice, to have his cause tryed by the Law. The Arch-priest, fearing the People, sent him away to the Emperour, for nothing could satisfie him but his life: But mark, in seeking the life of the Merchant, he purchased his own death, as hereafter followeth: The Arch-priest caused the Merchant to be brought into the Emperours Palace; whereas he in person sat as Judge. The Emperour being set, the Arch-priest brought his Advocace to plead his cause, which was to this effect: That the Merchant had committed murther; and also had spoken opprobrious words against the said Arch-priest. The Advocace having ended his accusation, the Merchant suddenly fell on his knees before the Emperour, and said, Mighty and most excellent Prince, out of your benignity, give me but Audience to be heard, before these your Nobles here attending, and I shall unfold a matter of so great Importance, that it touches your Person, even in the highest degree of Treason. Say on, said the Emperour. Mighty Emperour, and my Lords all, I would advise you to make fast the gates round about your Palace, that none depart from this place. The Emperour did as he requested. Then said the Merchant with a loud voice, Lords, Barons, and Knights, all you that love the honour of the Emperour, and the triumphant Reign of his Person, attend my words; the time is come that the Treason of the cursed Arch-priest will now be revealed, and come to light: Then thus great Emperour, this is that cursed Man, whom you have ever nourished, and brought to great honour, who hath deceived your trust; for he it is that hath wrought all the discord betwixt you, and your vertuous Lady, whom you have banished, both from your Bed, Court, and Country, and by whom you have received more dishonour, than ever he reaped honour from you: For it had been his part most of any, to have nourished and advanced your Renown, and to have preserved your Honour; but contrary he hath made my dread Lord, infamous by these his wicked projects, and brought upon you great scandal among all Nations; for he secretly, and under-hand, made love to the Emperess, but she denied him; the which he perceiving, that there was no likelihood to accomplish his desire, it drove him into a thousand fears, lest this his disloyal act should come to light, and therefore devised to falsifie unto your Ears, her faithful love unto your Bed. Of all which his false Accusations, I say here before you, and all your Lords and Barons, that he lieth like a Traytor, and for the more approbation of what I have uttered, I will here unfold the

the truth of what these eyes of mine were witnesses: It so hapned on a day, after the banishment of the Emperors, as I was riding about my affairs, I chanced to travel thro' a wood; at last, passing along the way, I found this treacherous Priest, transformed out of the habit of his Priesthood, into the shape of a Knight, even armed at all points ready for combat with the Enemy. Drawing nearer and nearer, I did behold him in fight with another man unarmed, which at last I found to be Blandiman, Squire to the banished Lady, who conducted her in the time of her exile. I perceiving they encountred one another so fiercely, I began to call unto them, to give over their direful fight; but they little regarded what I said: I did perceive the Lady piteously weeping, and at last said unto me thus: Gentle Merchant, and kind friend, lend me thy aid against this treacherous Arch-priest, that seeketh by force to rob me of mine honour. This is he, and only he, by whom I am banished from my Emperors Bed and Country. With that I put spurs to my horse, and ran between them, to separate them; which the Arch-priest perceiving, suddenly fled into the wood, being fully assured I had the knowledge who he was. Noble Emperor, it had been my part to have revealed this long before, but I durst not open my mouth unto you, for fear his greatness would have outswayed my truth, and so have brought my self to an untimely death.

The Emperor having heard this Tale, sighed, and at last fell into tears, in which tears he turned him to the Arch-Priest, relating his disloyalty in this manner: Ah! thou false Servant (quoth he) have I ever studied to do thee honor, and exalt thee to high dignities, and hast thou requited all my love and trust with disloyalty and treasons? Well, I have seen now what I ever mistrusted, thou hast made me of all Men most unhappy; but it is not so much thy fault, as mine own; thy treason hath bewitched me: In an evil hour I gave Credit to thy false speaking tongue, and thereby deserve to carry the brand of my own folly. The Arch-Priest hearing the Emperor thus distempered, began to entreat his Highness not to be so impatient, neither to give credit to this slanderous tale, that the Merchant had commenced against him: For (quoth he) he helpeth me: and I am no way Guilty of that wherewith he accuseth me. Thou lyest falsely. (quoth the Merchant) thou canst not excuse thy self in what I have charged thee withal: And if thou stand still in the Denial, I challenge thee by the simple Combate, to maintain the Truth, and try my Quarrel: And hereunto I throw down my Gage, and withal tender my body thereunto, for to make good what I have here spoken: And more than that, e're Night shut in, I will deliver thy Body to Death, or yield

my self vanquished. The Emperoz seeing the Merchant so resolute, and to stand to the trial of the Combate, he said, Arch-priest, it is time that either thou quit thy self, by answering this Challenge, or to yield thy self Guilty of what hath been laid to thy Charge. The Arch-Priest replied on this manner: Mighty Emperoz, I must let you understand, that to answer the Merchants challenge, or take up arms, is contrary to my place and calling, for I am a sacred Prelate of the Church, and therefore I may refuse to fight. Nay, quoth the Emperoz, in this case no excuse is to be admitted; but you must either fight, or yield your self a Traytor to our Crown and Dignity. At these words the Arch-Priest was somewhat troubled in mind, yet at last he was fain to accept the Combate, because the Emperoz charged him so deeply: And besides, he could have no excuse admitted. So the Emperoz commanded them both to safe keeping, till such time he had sent Letters to King Pepin of France; but in conclusion, the Traytor had his desert, as hereafter followeth:

The day of the Combate being appointed, and the field prepared, tydings came to the Emperoz, that King Pepin was come to Rome, to the aid of the Pope against the Infidels. The Emperoz hearing thereof, by the grave Counsel of the Lords, dispatched Ambassadors thither, with command to bring King Pepin to Constantinople, meaning thereby to make him an Eye-witness of these contentions, and of the cause of this Combate, which was to prove the Arch-priest a Traitor, and also to hold the Emperoz excused, in that he had, by his false accusations banished his Empress. The Ambassadors thus dispatched, you must imagine, that after long travel, at last they came to Rome, whereas they found King Pepin, as before was told them: King Pepin having heard of their coming, gave them entertainment appertaining to their several degrees; all which being done, the Ambassadors thus spake: Great Lord, we present these Letters from Alexander, your Brother, Emperoz of Constantinople, our Lord and Father, of which we intreat a speedy answer. King Pepin took the letters graciously, and read them; and having thoroughly considered the contents, with a loud voice, he said, My Lords, by the gods, here's much matter of tydings, and also of as great admiration: The Emperoz greets me well, and sends me word that my Sister, Bellisant, his betroathed Wife, hath been by him wrongfully banished, and that by reason of a false Arch-priest, unto whom he gave too much trust: which Priest, for these his treasonable facts, is accused by a Merchant; and for tryal of the truth of this his accusation, will put himself in jeopardy of life, by single combate in open field, body to body, with this treacherous Arch-priest. Now it is so fallen out, that

that the day and place is ready for the trial of his fact, whereby I shall be fully satisfied, whether my Sister hath been guilty of that wherewith she hath been charged, and most shamefully cast forth into banishment: Upon all which, I vow by my Crown and Dignity, that if the Emperour be found to have offered this indignity, without just cause, that I will be avenged against him in the extreamest manner that war can thunder forth against him. Having ended his speech unto his Lords, in presence of the Ambassadors, he Commanded with speed, that every man should address himself to accompany him to Constantinople, to behold the manner of this fight, between the Merchant and the Arch-priest. The day of his departure from Rome being come, he takes his way towards Constantinople, where, after some few days of travel, he safely arrived. The Emperour hearing of his coming, commanded all the Bells to be rung, and made triumph to welcome him, for all were filled with joy at his approach: The Emperour, mounted on horse-back, richly accompanied, marched out of the City, to meet his Brother, King Pepin. At last they met; but the Emperour overcome with sorrow and tears, at the remembrance of Bellisant, could not utter a word. On the other side, Pepin being fiercely angered at what had hapned to his Sister, gave no Respect unto the Emperour's tears, but proudly began to gird him on this manner: Emperour (quoth he) leave off your lamentations, and shake off these weeds of sorrow, that you seem to wear for my Sister; so he that hath a Harlot unto his Wife, I account him mad to grieve at her misbehaviour; and since my Sister hath proved such a one, let her go and take care of herself, she is not worthy of so much as one tear from such an eye of Majesty.

Nay, nay, said the Emperour, speak not evil against your Sister, for I am now fully persuaded, she is composed of all vertue and honesty, and that against all equity, I have banished her out of my Country. Think you so now? (quoth King Pepin) then are you worthy of a double shame, and you do bewray unto the world your weakness, and what great foolishness remains in you, when as by the Report of one man, and that a traitor too, you would with such rigor proceed against an innocent Lady, and so suddenly (like a common Harlot) throw her out into banishment, shame, and dishonour, being of the Blood-Royal of France. The Emperour hearing the King to be so bitter against him, he was very sorrowful, and said unto him in this manner. Alas! my Lord, do not thus follow me with wrath and anger, but rather turn your tongue upon some milder saying, for to that intent have I sent for you, that your own eyes may be witnesses of the truth. 'Tis true, quoth King Pepin, but it is all too late what now you say, for you

you have delibered over my Sister to the World's infamy, and that more is, even to banishment; and (for ought I know) to death it self, for I know not whether I shall ever behold her face again, or not: Fie, fie, that you being so great a Person, should be so affectionately boyn away, to give such sudden judgment against the Innocent; I do confesse, one may commit a foul and dishonourable act, but repentance is able to make amends, and not so suddenly to overthrow their Dignity and Renown: For that once lost, whether it be right or wrong, it is never again possible to be recovered. Again, how little you have esteemed of the honour of my Kindly Office, judge you, when first without deliberation, and next without any knowledge given me, you have proceeded so against my Sister? I make it plain against you, that envy towards her and me, was the only cause of these false and unjust wrongs done against us. Whilst these words passed betwixt them, they were now entred Constantinople, where with great joy and gladness they were received of the Inhabitants. The Emperour would have had King Pepin to have lodged with him in his Palace, but the King denyed, and caused his Train to lodge within the City, and he himself also. Then the Emperour caused many Gifts and presents to be offered him, but he disdainfully rejected them: For King Pepin thought of nothing but the dishonour unto his Sister, and that the rather, for the whole City accounting her the fairest, and most vertuous, and the chastest Lady in all the World, and that by injustice and treason, she was banished.

Chap. VI. How the Merchant, and High-priest encountred at the place appointed, about the clearing the Lady Bellisant, and what a glorious Victory did betide the Merchant. How King Pepin, after the Combat, returned into France; and after sailed to Rome, to fight the Sarazens that had surprized the City.

NOW was the day appointed come for the Combate, between the Arch-priest and the Merchant: wherefore every thing was made in readiness, according to the Command of the Emperour. At last there came both the Combatants into the field, and presented themselves before the Emperour, being both before the Emperour, his Attendants, Knights, and others, and the Arch-priest armed in a most sumptuous armour of proof, all imbost with gold and pearl, which made such a glittering shew, that it dazzled the eyes of the Beholders. Being thus richly armed, the Arch-priest came forth into the field, and took his place appointed him, at the one end of the List: The Emperour beholding the glorious shew that the arch-

Arch-priest made in his arms, called forth the Merchant, causing him first to kneel down, and in the presence of the Assembly, dubbed him Knight; then commanded he, that a most rich armor should be put upon him, in the presence of King Pepin, who, during the time he was arming, promised unto this Merchant, if he overcame the Arch-priest, to advance him to great livings, and high authority. These two Adversaries being now in readiness, and each having their blazon about their necks, their horses were brought forth, and they proudly mounted, ready to give Battle: The Emperour gave strict Charge unto all his Officers of arms, to have a special Eye upon the Arch-priest, for fear, lest on the sudden, he should flee the field, or run away from them, as they would answer it with their lives. The Merchant being mounted, and his sword girt to him, first entered the lists, after whom entered such abundance of people, that they were numberless. Then after came the Arch-priest, sumptuously accompanied with Nobles and Knights, of great honor and dignity. The Combatants thus both entered the lists, ready to charge one another; King Pepin being there in person, called out aloud unto the Merchant, saying unto him, my friend, the gods give thee Victory against this false Traitor, I vow unto thee here, before this Assembly (so I may but find out the truth of my Sister Bellissant) notwithstanding the great advancement that the Emperour hath promised, to take thee into France, and make thee Companion with the best of my Kingdom. The Merchant gave the King great thanks, and said, Dread King, I doubt not but this night to make this trayterous Priest confess, that he hath treacherously sought the destruction of your Sister. Then came a Herald, administering to them both an oath; and so, clearing the lists, left the Champions to their Fortunes. Now are both the Combatants ready to set forth, and the Marshals of the field brought each of them a Spear, which they no sooner had received, but they put spurs to their horses, and ran with such violence together, that their spears were broken to their hands; then they began to set forward to another course, charging each other with their swords, in such violent manner, that with their Fury, they redounded from their armour to the ground, cutting off whole quarters of their Corsets, and left them as a prey for those that attended the fight. The Arch-priest seeing himself so stiffly matched, gave over the fight, till towards the evening, (for such was the custom of the Country, that in any challenged combat, either Party might refuse to follow the fight so eagerly, but that they might have a breathing time, so the Combatant were yielded vanquished before sun-set, or else abide the sentence of death) thinking thereby to weary out the Merchant; which the Merchant perceiving, he prepared

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red receive the Arch-priest courageously, when he Encountered him; which not being long after, the Merchant so redoubled his strokes, that he smote off one of his Ears, and his steel habergion, and with the violence of the same blow, the Merchant's sword fell from his hand; which the Arch-priest seeing, put spurs to his horse, and charged him with such violence, that he ran against the Merchant's horse, and thrust out one of his Eyes; the horse



feeling himself hurt, ran up and down as mad, leaping and curbeting so furiously, that he unhors'd his Rider, and so hard was the fortune of the Merchant, that in his fall, his foot hung in the stirrop, whereby he was brought into great danger, the horse hurrying him along the field, that all were very sorrowful to behold this lamentable Spectacle, and with the amazement thereof, grew desperate in their hopes. King Pepin also was so discouraged at this disastorous chance, that the tears did even trickle down his cheeks, uttering many silent ejaculations against the unkindness of Fortune.

Now that which was most miraculous, was, all this time, that the Merchant

chant was dragged up and down the field, the Arch-priest could not enforce his horse to come up unto the Merchant, but fled out to and fro, whereby he could not make a prey upon the Merchant, as he intended to do. But see, at the last, the Merchant's Horse fell down, by which means the Merchant got his leg from forth the scrop, and at last got upon his feet like a valiant and hardy Champion: the Priest perceiving the Merchant had recovered his legs, came running with strong violence upon him, and thereby lent him five or six blows upon his shoulders, that the poor Merchant was even astonished. At last, he was forced to give back to recover breath, and in a little space, finding himself somewhat relieved, he subtly gave a fresh assault upon the Arch-priest, against whom he struck with such violence, that the sword fell out of his hand, but he first so wounded him, that the blood ran through his armour upon the earth. This so vexed the Priest, that he grew mad with rage, and turned his horse upon the Merchant, minding to have over-run him; but the Merchant observing his drift, prepared to receive him, and drawing a long knife, punch'd it into the belly of the horse, so that the horse being thus wounded, began to sing and leap; insonmuch, as the Priest was in danger to be unhorsed, and striving to save himself, he lost his shield: the Merchant spying him thus unarmed, ran hastily, & caught up the shield, and threw it away, so that he could no more recover it; that done, he made again towards his Horse, and smote him into the belly with his sword, which brought the horse and his Rider down to the ground. The Priest being thus unhorsed, was very nimble to recover himself, but the Merchant watching all opportunity, lent him such a blow, that as he began to rise, he laid him flat again upon the ground, and leaping on him, pull'd off his helmet, thinking to have smitten off his Head: the arch-priest seeing himself in such danger, said thus, Alas! my Friend, I pray thee take pity on me, and give me leave to confess my self, for I yield my self vanquish'd: the Merchant hereat was very courteous, and granted him his desire: The Priest had no sooner got on his feet, but clasping the Merchant in his arms, threw him on the ground, and leapt upon him in most sudden outrage, saying thus to the Merchant, I have now an advantage, and from my hands thou shalt not escape with life, if what I shall command thee thou do not effect. Ah! replied the Merchant, hast thou thus betrayed me? Well, it is so that now I stand at thy mercy, and that thou maist do with me what pleaseth thee; therefore let me know what it is thou commandest, and so thou save my life, I shall gladly do it. Then thus go with me before the Emperour, and King Pepin, and there openly, in the hearing of all men, testifie, that thou falsly hath accused me, and that there-

by I may be cleared of those false accusations, which, by thy means, have been brought upon me; all which, if you effectually accomplish, I swear and promise thee to save thy life; and besides, be a means unto the Emperor and his Brother, to buy thee peace, and forgiveness of this thy foul fact, committed both against me and them also: Nay more, I swear to thee, by the faith of a Gentleman; and by the order of Priest-hood, to give thee a Piece of mine in marriage, who shall be to thee rich, fair, and of pleasant behaviour, and to conclude, thou shalt say more than ever any of thy Kindred ever told; thou shalt be made more honourable and wealthy. Therefore now advise thy self, whether thou wilt be made happy in an honourable life, or miserable in an untimely death? The Merchant having heard the Arch-priest's tale, was upon the sudden exceeding sorrowful, and not without cause, but not knowing what to resolve upon, he at length thus answered: Sir Priest, your arguments are grounded upon good reasons, therefore I am ready to accomplish your desires, so that you will be as mindful of your oaths and promises. In me, quoth the Arch-priest, there shall appear no fault. Why then (quoth the Merchant) let us set forwards to the Emperor, and there will I set you free from all those accusations which heretofore I have exhibited against you. It is well, said the Arch-priest, wherefore rise up then, and let us go together. The Merchant had no sooner got on his feet, but he began afresh to open all the treason of the Arch-priest, even to his teeth; and again he took courage, and now would requite him in the same sort he had served him before, and suddenly he clasping the Arch-priest in his arms, he threw him down, and having him at advantage, he said thus, Arch-priest, seeing you have taught me to play my part, and therefore think no more upon confessions; for you shall confess to me or none. The Arch-priest seeing himself beaten at his own weapons, began again to intreat, but the Merchant not regarding his words, presently put out his Eyes, and gave him so many deadly blows, that he made him sure enough for rising to do him any harm; then the Merchant called the marshals of the field, and said, Lo, here you may see that I have done my best endeavour against the Arch-priest, and if he be vanquished, say so, for I am sure I have brought him to such a pass, that I may kill him out-right if I please; therefore my request now unto you is. That you would conduct Alexander, Emperor of Constantinople, and King Pepin of France hither to this place, accompanied with their worthy Lords and Knights, that they may be Ear-witnesses of the confession, which the Arch-priest shall make unto them, and also to hear in what unjust manner he waged combat against me,

The marshals did according to the request of the Merchant; and then presently came the Emperour, with King Pepin, and all the Nobles, where to the place where the Arch-priest lay fully vanquished. Then the Emperour demanded of him the truth, which the arch-priest confessed, declaring the whole plot of his villanies, and how by his means the Empress had been wrongfully banished. When the Standers by heard all the whole matter, a multitude of tears were shed; but especially the Emperour, for his lamentations were so violent, that all that were about him wept with great bitterness. Now, if the Emperour were so sorrowful, what may you think of King Pepin, her Brother? Alas! it was not without great cause, when they saw and knew, that by too much trust given to a treacherous Priest, they had lost the vertuous Lady Bellisant. Between these two great Princes there was great joy, and great sorrow; joy to King Pepin, that his Sister was found innocent and blameless; sorrow to the Emperour, that he should be the only means (by false suggestions) of his Wifes banishment. At last, lamentations were laid apart: when they had heard all the confession of the arch-priest's treasons, the Emperour consulted with his Council, that the Traytor should be put into a cauldron of hot burning oyl, quick, and so finish his miserable days, as he had traiterously sought the life of that innocent Lady. Execution was suddenly to be done; and it being done, the assembly of People, of all sorts was dismissed. Afterwards King Pepin with-drew himself towards his Lodging; but the Emperour sorrowful for what had hapned, came before King Pepin, and humbling himself, began thus to say: Alas! dear Brother, I am all sorrowful for my error, in that I have so rashly committed such a detestable crime against my Lady, your Sister, and these great Nobles your Attendants: Let it suffice, that I behold my own folly: What shall I say? I can but crave pardon for my fault, and give my self into your hand; and do to me whatsoever pleaseth you. And for a further satisfaction, I render up into your hands, my Empire, with all the Regality thereunto appertaining, for I am altogether unworthy to Rule an Empire, that am not Master of my own affections. Take it, I say, for I will be no longer served; but during the rest of my life, become a Servant unto thee, or any; for no better have I deserved. King Pepin perceiving the Emperour so passionate, and so humble minded, kindly took him from the ground; and before all his Lords, freely forgave him all trespasses. So that before they parted, there was a general Peace concluded; and a speedy course taken to send into all parts of the World, to seek the distressed Lady Bellisant. Thus all things settled in order, King Pepin prepared to take his leave of the Emperour. King Pepin having taken

ken his leave of Constantinople (as you have heard) after a long journey arrived in France, and so to Orleance, to refresh his long and tyred spirits, tossed to and fro in melancholly and heavy cogitations; for the woful mischance befallen unto his Sister Bellissant. — Being thus safely arrived, and seated at Orleance, the King was right joyful, and at the last he had attained the place he so much desired, by reason that it was one of the goodliest forrests in the Realm. Being come hither, he caused great banquets to be made for his welcome; which was accordingly performed. In the midst of these feasting and revelings, the Squire that had Charge of the Orphan Valentine, took and presented him before the King, saying, Dread Sovereign, Lo, here I present before you, the poor Orphan, that your Majesty found in the Forrest of Orleance, and the same Child which you commanded me to see brought up, not at my own expence, Dread Sovereign, but your own. My Liege, the reason why I make tender of him unto you at this time, is, because he is growing to Man's estate; and so may it please your Majesty, it is time to dispose of him as you please. The King having heard the words of the Squire, called this Orphan (named Valentine) unto him, and took him by the hand, and moved divers questions unto him, all which he answered with much modesty, and great wisdom; and being ravished therewith, commanded that all his cupboard of Plate should be given unto him: moreover (said the King) I command, that this Orphan, Valentine, be dearly preserved and kept, for that you shall perceive I respect him above common love; I will also, that this Infant shall be nourished, and kept with my Daughter Eglantine, she is both fair, wise, and well endowed with all the richest gifts of Nature. The King having given this command, it was accordingly accomplish'd, inso-much, that they were both under government of one and the same Nurse, and had one and the same Attendants: Yea, every way they joyed one in the company of the other, in such wise, that if the one was but a little absent from the other, there was a kind of lamentation, till they came together again: but especially the King's Daughter; who so pondered on the prudent carriages of the Orphan, that she became in love with him; inso-much, that his absence brought her into a thousand fears, and drove her melancholly and disturbed thoughts, into a thousand doubts and jealousies.

Now Valentine was ever practising himself in feats of arms, as horse, armor, jousts, and tournaments, still exposing himself to all dangers whatsoever. The King wisely beholding the Inclination of this Youth, allotted unto him what his heart desired, and furnished him with armor, horse, lands, revenues; and made him Lord of rich possessions. Being thus fur-

nished,

nished, there arose within the Court, many secret mutterings, whereby many People scetted so sore in envy towards him, that they uttered forth many reproachful words against him, saying, That when he was at the best but a found, stray, poor, base Child, without any known Parents or Friends; of no gentle, nor noble stock, and such like. Which, when Valentine heard, he could take no other revenge, but sit him down and weep: whose tears fair Eglantine perceiv'ing, would, in a tender Roman-like affection, accompany him, even pouring forth her tears also for company. At length, when he saw tears little prebail'd, he began to forsake them, and taking heart, bore himself like a man, amongst the greatest in the Court, carrying himself in such humble and gentle frame, that he gained the love of all sorts and degrees, as well Nobles, as Inferiours. Valentine thus growing up in love of the Court, and all this while his Brother Orson runs in the Forrest, all rough, and covered with hair, like a bear, leading the life of a beast; where we leave him for a while, and return unto the affairs of King Pepin: It so chanced, that there came into Orleance, divers Ambassadors from the Pope, demanding Aid against the Sarazens, Enemies of the Holy Faith, who had lately taken the City of Rome by violence: King Pepin understanding hereof, by divers letters received, addressed himself, and his powers, to make his resistance against this common Enemy; and amongst the rest of his worthy Followers, he ordained this young Valentine a chief Commander. Fair Eglantine hearing that Valentine should make one, became wondrous heavy and sorrowful; for that she loved him more than any other Creature, and secretly sent a messenger unto him, to come and speak with her. And when he came, she sighing, said unto him, Alas! Valentine, my Love, now am I quite bereft of all my joy, for I perceive you will betake yourself to a dangerous war: Gentle Love, leave me not so desolate; would to the gods, that I had neither Father, nor Friend in the World, to contradict my will, then shouldst thou soon perceive how my Affection stands to thy Person: For it wishes might aball: I swear (by the gods) thou art the only man I would joyne my self unto, in the Bands of marriage; and then shouldst thou be the King of France, and I Queen. The young man hearing her idle imaginations; said, Madam, leave these womanish dotages, you know I am not a Person fitting your Estate, I am a found stray, that your Father hath caused long time to be nourished for Charity sake. I am no way fitting you, or the meanest Damocel attending your Person; make your choice else-where, and joyne Royal Blood into yours; and so, with all duty, I take my leave, and commend you to the gods. Having thus ended his speech, away he goes, leaving

leaving the poor Lady all heavy, desolate, and in the midst of mourning.

By this time the King, and all his retinue, were in a readiness to depart, and taking their way from Orleans, towards Rome, they went thro' a mighty Forrest; and being entered, the King called his Lords and Barons together, and said thus unto them: My Lords, it is not unknown to you, that in these woods (as report goeth) there lieth a strange monster, a wild-man, much feared of Passengers, which spectacle of man's shape, I long to behold; before I venture out further upon our intended voyage to Rome. The Lords generally consented, and the Chase was suddenly appointed. Being entered the Wood, they chased divers sorts of wild beasts, and overcame them: But as for Orson, the Wild-man, none durst adventure the finding forth of him, save only his Brother Valentine (but he knew nothing) and he followed still the Chase; hoping at last, both to find and fight with him also. Every way they begirt the Wood, some one way, some another: The King himself venturing so far, that he came before a Cave, dark and obscure, where as the Wild-man used to hide himself. Orson perceiving the King, rushed out upon him, caught him within his nails (the which was long and crooked) and in rough and ravenous manner, cast him on the ground. The King thus suddenly surprized by a Savage, never lookt for life, but in a piteous manner, cryed out for help, who was seconded by a valiant Knight at arms, who espying the King to be almost strangled, suddenly drew his Sword to have run the Wild-man through. Orson perceiving the glittering Sword, left the King, and ran furiously upon the Knight, took him in his arms, and overthrew him, horse and all: The horse soe affrighted, got up again, and in a mad fit ran up and down the Forrest; but as for the Rider (though a Knight at arms) Orson held him so fast with his twangs and talons, that at last he pulled him in pieces. In the mean space the King escaped, and meeting part of his Company, related to them the great danger he had escaped, and the fearful death of the Knight. These tydings much amazed the rest of the company; yet being manfully resolved, they joynded themselves together, and marched towards the cave, to meet with Orson, and either to take him alive, or put him to death in the cave. But being come thither, they found the Knight dead, and torn in pieces, but Orson they could not find, for the Gods had reserved him to be conquered only by his Brother Valentine; of whose proceedings you shall hear more hereafter.

So the King perceiving their labour lost, gave over the chase, and set forward toward Rome. After this, the King ranked his forces into battell-
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ray, and the great ensign of France was given to one, called Myllon Daugler, a very valiant Prince, and a wise Leader, so that he and his two Brethren, Gervas, and Sampson, had the whole Command of the Forces, that then were marching towards Rome. When they were come unto Rome, King Pepin desired Battel, and would fain understand the state that the City now stood in, under the Conquest of the Sarazens; but it was told him, he should not be too inquisitive of those affairs; for the Admiral of the Sarazens had surprized the City, and put multitudes to the sword, and had spoiled and defeated all the Churches, and made them Temples fit for their heathenish Idols; and he constrained the Pope, with his Cardinals, Arch-Bishops, Bishops, Priors, Monks, Friars, and all the Ecclesiastical Persons, for to serve at their heathenish Alters, and to sacrifice to their Devils, after the custom of the Heathens. When King Pepin understood hereof, he was much enraged, to hear that the Christians were thus Captivated by Heathens; wherefore he advanced himself nearer to the City, and there having assembled all his Forces, he began to draw them into divers Squadrons, meaning thereby to give them a sudden assault; for his fury was so great against these heathenish Sarazens, that he vowed revenge upon them; but taking better advice, he reserved himself, and his Army for a season. What after befel, shall be delivered at large, when fit occasion serveth our purpose.

Chap. VII. How King Pepin besieged Rome; and how Valentine Justed with the Admiral of the Sarazens, and slew him, whereby the City was relieved, and won again from the Sarazens.

King Pipin being thus come to Rome, besieged it, and after some days spent, he called about him his Barons, Knights, and mighty Men of War, and began to speak unto them in this manner: My Lords, and followers, you well know that this heathenish Admiral, Enemy to the Christian Faith, and Church of Rome, hath put many Christians to the sword, and violently troden under foot, all such as withstood his power; therefore it is our duties to commiserate their estate that are thus overthrowen, and to try the fortune of a battel, amongst those heathenish Pagans; and either drive them out of the City, or leave our dead Carcasses as a prey, as many have done before: Wherefore, I King Pepin, resting upon this resolution, would fain find out a Man, to bear unto the proud Admiral, a Letter of defiance in my Name. King Pepin having finished his speech, there was none amongst them made any answer. At length, Valentine, seeing all stand mute, stepped

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ped forth before the King, & began to speak on this manner: Mighty Soberaign, so you be pleased to giue me leave, I shall undertake the message, and shall no whit fear to speak, both to the Pagan Admiral, & to the whole Host of Pagans, were their multitude twice as many as they be and my return shall make proof, that I have done my message, both with honour, and advantage to your Majesty. The King hearing Valentine thus forward, and of such undoubted, and valiant resolution, was right joyful; & all those of his Princely Train, greatly marvelled at this his magnanimous spirit. Hereupon the King called forth unto him a Secretary, willing him to draw a Letter of Defiance, and deliver the same to Valentine. Valentine prepared himself thereunto, and no sooner had he received the letter, but he took leave of the King, and all his Train, and being bravely mounted, he took his way towards Rome, and so to the Palace where the Admiral lay: So coming thither, he came before the Admiral, and saluted him after this manner: The gods preserve the Noble and Puissant King Pepin, my Lord and Soberaign; and Mahomet, whom thou serbest, save and defend thee, Redoubted Admiral. When Valentine had thus spoken, the Admiral roused him from his chair, and with fierce and frowning brow, replied thus unto him: Messenger return, and get thee gone out of my sight; and say thus unto King Pepin, Will him either to Renounce his Faith, and believe on Mahomet, or else let him look to receive no other sentence than death; and so destroy him, together with all his Lords and Kingdom: Get thee gone, and make here no longer abode; go, I say, reply not a word, for my heart is all enraged, that so long I suffer thee. Again, I tell thee, that for thy part, thou hast committed a haughty enterprise, thus to enter my Palace, to deliver any such message unto me. Wherefore I assure thee, by the height of my Majesty, If that I did assuredly know, that what thou hast done, were through pride of heart and insolency, thereby to make a mock at our majesty, thou shouldst never return to King pepin, to carry an answer to thy proud masters Letters.

Valentine hearing these furious words sounding from the Admiral, began to be affraid: Wherefore deliberating with himself what to reply, he mildly said, High and mighty Emperour, do not imagine that by pride I am come before you; for when you shall understand the manner of my coming, you will be astonished thereat. Why then (quoth the Admiral) say on, tell us how thou art come, for I swear by Mahomet, I shall take great pleasure in hearing thee relate thine enterprise. Then said Valentine, Sir, so it is, that I was accused to King pepin for a Coward, and that since I came to this war, I would secretly have stolen away from the Camp, and

and returned again into France: For which (great Admiral) the King had me in great disgrace, & vowed the next morning to smite off my head. I perceiuing my self in this danger, sought rather to save my life, than to lose my life and honour; and therefore gave it forth throughout the Court, that I would undertake to come unto your Court, to desie you on the King's behalf, and therewithal, that I would challenge you, to break three spears with you in single combate, to try your valiancy, and to win my lost honour that I told unto you: Wherefore my Request is, that your Greatness would grant me my Request, other wise I dare not return again, lest the King put me to death. The Admiral hearing this pitiful Tale of Valentine, said unto him, Son, I do swear by Mahomet, that thou shalt not be refused; but at this instant I offer thee the Jests; and to the end that those French-men that lye in siege before the City, may have a sight thereof, I will ordain the place of Jesting to be without the City. Valentine humbly thanked him, and in token of his acceptance, and feigned love, he fell down, and kissed the feet of the Admiral. Valentine grew into great favour in the Admiral's Court; but yet it often troubled his mind, that he could not know who were his Parents. But while he bestowed his wandring thoughts here, the Admiral said thus unto him: Fair Son, methinks you are very pensive; 'tis true (quoth he) and not without cause. for I am afraid that I shall be slain in these Jests; wherefore my request is, That I may have a Confessor, to give me Absolution for my sins. Then the Admiral commanded that a Priest should be brought him: The Priest being come, said unto Valentine, Now confess you unto me; Valentine getting the Priest aside, he said thus unto him: Sir, you are a Christian Priest, and you ought most to defend the Christian Faith, wherefore hearken to that I shall tell you, for it is a thing requirerh great secrecie. Thus it is, You know that this day I am to Jest with the Heathenish Admiral, the greatest Enemy of Christian People: Now I am well assured, that a great number of the Sarazens will issue forth of the City, to be Eye-witnesses of these Jests, to be held without the City: Therefore you shall give warning to all Christians, to keep within the walls, arming themselves in a readines, and closely keep it from the ears of the Pagans; so when the Pagans are come forth to behold the Jests, the Christians suddenly shall surprize the Guards that keeps the Gates; and if any mutiny arise, let them keep out those that are out. And send a messenger to King pepin of what is done, that he with his Army, may come unto them that are without, while those within are set on by the armed Christians; so besieging them on every side, that in the end, we may make such a slaughter

Let them, that the Christians may receive both their City in Peace, and their former liberty. So having ended his speech, the Priest departed. The Admiral commanded Valentine to be led into his Chamber to dine, giving them charge he should be honourably attended at the board. Being set among many Lords, he behaved himself gently and mildly towards all. Dinner being done, the Admiral called unto him a Nephew of his, named Salatas, commanding him to see Valentine as well armed at all points as himself; and moreover, charged his Nephew to deliver unto Valentine the best horse in his Stable. Salatas having received this command from his Uncle the Admiral, took Valentine, and led him into a fair hall; being come thither, he caused to be laid before him divers armors, willing him to make choice of the best. Valentine cast his eyes upon them all, and at last appointed the armor, wherewith he should be armed, and making himself ready as fast as he could, he approached down into the Court, whereas he was attended with his horse, ready to put his foot into the stirrup. Being come down out of the hall, he presently mounted his horse; the Admiral issuing likewise ready armed, out of his Priby-Palace. Being thus armed, they took their way towards the chief Gate of the City of Rome, for on that side King pepin had laid his Siege. When they were both in the field, Valentine hung his shield about his Neck, in which he wore a heart, waving in a field of silver, and on one side a tree; all which did signifie that he was found in a Forrest, and were the same Arms King pepin bestowed on him. The Champions being entered the lists, great was the clamour of the French, in joy of Valentine; the sound wherof, the Pagans hearing, suddenly issued out of the City, to behold these Triumphant Justs.

The Fryar having played his part among the Christians, within the City, presently after the Pagans were gone out to behold these triumphs, addressed themselves to take possession of the Gates; which having gotten, there was entrance again to be expected. King pepin being acquainted with their purpose, prepared all his Men of War ready to relieve Valentine, if necessary required. Having all things in readiness, the hour was at hand that the Justs should begin. So each of them being prepared for the encounter, they valiantly couched their spears, and the first course proved so valiant, that their spears shivered all in splinters; each Combatant perceiving valour to brandish on the top of his helm, made out a second course, where Valentine got the better; for with his spear (charged against the Admiral) he gave him such a blow, that he forced his spear quite through his body: Insomuch, that he fell from his horse stark dead, making a pittiful noise at his departure; wherefore the Pagans ran at Valentine, and would have killed him. Va-

lentine

Valentine perceiving their intent, with a resolute courage, put spurs to his horse, and with his sword drawn, violently rushed through the thickest of the Pagans, and slew many of them, as he passed. King pepin with his host, came up to the aid of Valentine, but he was so beset by the Pagans, that he was smitten off his horse; which Valentine espying, came up to the rescue of the King, so that he horsed him again. The King perceiving himself delivered out of danger, called unto Valentine, and said, my Child, thou hast saved my life, which if the gods grant to spare, I will reward thee liberally. By this time the Battel grew so hot, that the Pagans were forced to retire to the City; when they came to the Gates, the Christians that were in the City issued on them, and placed the Ensigns and Standards of King pepin on the Walls. The Pagans seeing King pepin's Colours displayed on the Walls, betook themselves to flight: In chase of them the Christians followed so fast, that they shamefully ended their days. In this Battel were slain a thousand Pagans, only by the means of Valentine, who bare himself so valiantly that day. And thus by his prowess, the City was again restored to the Christians; for which deed there was Great Triumph in all Christendom, but especially at Rome: So that all the Inhabitants round about, gave immortal praise to pepin King of France, and by the General applause of the People, he was created Emperor, and crowned by the Pope. King pepin did many Goodly Acts in his time, administering Justice to all. This happened in the time of Pope Clement the Fourth.

Chap. VIII. How Haufray and Henry repined at the love the King did shew towards Valentine.

King Pepin having expelled the Pagans out of Rome, he took his way back towards Orleance; and being there arrived, he was joyfully welcomed by Bertha his Queen, with her little Son Charlemain, and her fair Daughter Eglantine; and their joy appeared so much the more, for that Valentine, who accordingly came unto her; and when she saw him, she saluted him kindly, and with an amorous Countenance, began thus unto him: Valentine, you above all the rest, are most welcome; and well ought it so to be, for Fame hath blown forth her trumpet of your Triumphs; and Report says; you are the only Champion that drove the Pagans out of Rome. Valentine replied, Madam, I can hinder no man to speak what pleaseth him; but as for my self, I have done little deserving praise; but it hath pleased the King, your Father, to do me that Great Honour, even so much, as all the days of my Life I am not able to make the least part of Recompence. And as he spake

spake these words, Haufray and Henry (two Men composed of all envy) entred the Chamber of Eglantine; and seeing him, began thus to speak: Valentine, what have you to do here, in the Chamber of our Sister? It is no place for such Straglers as you are; this your boldness is not to be born; no man knows of whom you are, therefore we advise you to be warned, that you attempt not the like again, lest you dearly buy these your presumptions. Valentine hearing these words, answered, Among me not, for I entred not the Chamber of your Sister, to her dishonour. What though I be poor, and not know of whence I am, yet I am not so base as to offer violence unto one, descended from the blood of Kings: And further, I promise and vow never to come near her Chamber again; and therewithal departed, leaving the Lady very pensive all alone. Valentine hasted to the Palace, to wait upon the King at dinner, where was in presence Haufray and Henry, and the Duke of Myllain Daugler, who likewise waited upon the King, during dinner-time. Dinner being finished, the King arose, and called to Valentine, and in hearing of all his Nobles, began thus to say: My Lords, here is Valentine, that hath well deserved at our hands, and that saved my life when I was in danger; therefore, to the end you may take knowledge of his good service towards me, I freely give him the Earldom of Clerimont of Avergne; and when I can bestow more upon him, he shall not be forgotten. Valentine gave him many thanks, saying, That he had heaped upon him more Honours than he could any way deserve. Haufray and Henry hearing these words, grew greatly male-content; and at last Henry began to talk with his Brother after this manner. This Found-fellow I perceive grows in great favour with the King, and there must be some course taken to cross his Designs, or else our overthrow will shortly follow upon it: For (quoth he) you know well, that the King hath no Sons but we two, and one little one (named Charlemain) which, if our Father dye, may by our furtherance quickly be set beside the Kingdom. Again, it is greatly to be feared, that this Valentine will support and uphold him against us: Therefore Brother, I think it good to frame some plot against him, to bring him in displeasure with the King, and so far to prosecute your revenge against him, that if it be possible, we will not only work his downfal, but life and all: This being effected, we may at our pleasure govern the Realm without contradiction. He having ended his speech, Haufray replied, Let it be as thou hast said, and that we may entrap his life, this shall be our plot: We will both go to the King, and tell him, that this Upstart hath deflowered our Sister, and that we took him in Bed with her; which, when the King heareth, will certainly put him

to death. Being thus resolved, they daily fed their imaginations with the death of Valentine; while he (nothing mistrusting) served the King daily in all duty, insomuch, that the King's love daily increased toward him, and above all other most desired his company.

Here let us leave off a little, and come to Orson, his Brother, who all this while lived in the Forrest, so much feared of all men, that none durst approach nigh the Wood: Daily complaints came unto the King from every side; and amongst the rest it chanced on a day, that a poor man came unto the King all wounded, saying thus unto him: Sir, I am come before you to make complaint against a Wild-man in the woods, for one day, as I and my Wife passed through the Forrest, carrying bread and other victuals, the Wild-man came upon us, took it away, and eat it every bit; and more than that, he violently took my Wife from me, and constrained her to yield unto his lawless lust. The King hearing out the poor man's tale, was disposed to make himself merry with his ill fortune, and therefore asked the poor man this question, Whether grieved him most, either taking away his victuals, or his Wife? By my faith, said the poor man, at the wrong offered to my Wife. Thou hast rightly said; (quoth the King) therefore I command my Treasurer to see restitution made unto thee for the loss of thy victuals; but as for thy Wife, thou must bare the burden thereof thy self. After this, the King caused all his Barons to assemble, and make some order to take Orson; all which they did: And hereupon a Proclamation was sent unto all parts of the Realm, that whosoever he was, that could take this Wild-man alive or dead, should have a thousand marks for his reward. Hereupon assembled many worthy Knights to take this Task in hand; but the King being one day in his Palace, in the midst of his Nobles, talking and debating who should be appointed to this business, Haufray, Enemy unto Valentine, being there, said thus unto the king: Sir, here is Valentine, whom you have nourished, and advanced to high dignities, and one that hath offered unlawful love to our Sister Eglantine: He is fittest to set forward to try his valour, and let him be employed to fetch in this Wild-man, that is such a terror to the Inhabitants: And if with his valour he can vanquish him, then let him have Eglantine in Marriage, which is his desired wish. The King hearing these words of his Son, said, Away, for thy Speech savoureth of nothing but envy. What though he be poor, of low birth, and found in a Forrest; yet I find him to me true and trusty, and of gentle carriage; and to me seemeth to be born of more noble Parentage than thou art: Leave off these thy malicious and bitter speeches against him; for the behaviour that dwelleth in him, sheweth that he is descended

cended of more noble Lineage, than as yet to us appeareth. And I, for my part for the divers vertues that are daily seen in him am willing that he go to my Daughter when euer he please, for I am well assured, that no dishonour can be offered out of a branch of such a generous Spirit.

Hautray hearing the King make this apology on the behalf of Valentine, was sore displeased in heart; but setting a good face upon the matter, dissembled his countenance for that time; but it seemed Valentine well observed him, and at last brake forth into these words: Hautray, without any cause giben on my part, you have spoken ill of me, and your will it is, that I should undertake the fight and conquest of the Wild-man, only to this end, that I might end my days, and so your rebenge be accomplished upon me: Well, be it so, here before the King, I take a solemn oath, that I will take the enterprize upon me, and find out the Wild-man; and having found him, I will fight him, and either bring him alive or dead, or else leave my dead Carcass as a witness in the open field. But if I conquer and live, I will never more be seen in this Country, till I have found the Father that begot me; as also, bring to light whether I was lawfully begotton in wedlock, and how I came to be left an Infant in the wood. The King understanding well what danger Valentine had plung'd himself into, grew exceedingly angry against his two Sons, cursing them, for that they were the cause of this enterprize; for he loved Valentine more than any, and at last called unto Valentine, and said, My Child, advise you well what you undertake; for to fight with the Wild-man, is desperation it self; for you cannot be ignorant how many valiant men, and worthy Champions have by him been overcome: And others likewise of valiant account, that hath forsaken this combate. Therefore, I say, let not the evil words of a few malicious Men make you desperate, in losing your life. For my child, it is far better to endure all the bitter words of envy (which is accounted vertue) than to hazard ones life against such a monster, and no man. Valentine replied, Pardon me my Leige, for I will never revoke my intended purpose: They call me found-brat which griebeth my very soul; for indeed I know not what I am, nor of what place; but I rest determined, and so take my leave; for to morrow morning will I set forward to my intended enterprize. Having taken his leave, marked not, tho' the fair Lady Eglantine made great lamentation for what had hapned; but the next morning, by brake of day, she called one of her Maidens, and said, Go to Valentine, and bid him come and speak with me before his departure; bid him fear no danger of life, for I would fain take my leave of him. The Damself did as the Lady commanded; and when she came to Valentine, she found him mounted on horse.

horse-back, and she did her message unto him. He understanding her errand, said unto her, Damsel, I know the love to be great between the Lady Eglantine and me, yet I would not wish her to desire that that will turn to her dishonour: But envy is of so great power, that it never leaves them whom it once possesseth. For certain it is, that Haufray and Henry (brethren to your Lady) have at me great and malicious hearts, and will pursue me, even unto death, if it were possible; wherefore, fair Damsel, bear her this answer, which you heard me tell, and bid her think no evil thereof; and further, that she hold me in excuse, that I refuse to come; and so farewell.

Chap. IX. How Valentine Conquered his brother Orson (the Wild-man in the Forrest of Dyleance) and afterwards departed from the Forrest, with Orson, towards Dyleance, wherein King Pepin was resident.

NOW is Valentine upon his journey, accompanied only with his Page; whither being come, he put his helmet on his head, and sent him back again: So he rode forth all that day, seeking the Wild-man, but he could not find him; so the night drawing on, he descended from his horse, and tyed him up to a tree; having so done, he refreshed his body with such victuals as he had; and when he had eaten, and the day shut in, he for fear, betook himself to the top of a tree, and there abode all that night. In the morning, as soon as day appeared, he looked round about, and at last espied his Brother Orson running through the Forrest, at length the Wild-man came to the place where Valentine had tyed his horse, who much wondering at the beauty of him, began to claw him with his long nails, thinking thereby to rouse up the courage of the horse; for he had never seen the like. The horse feeling the Wild-man's nails, began to sing and kick exceedingly. Valentine sitting on the top of a tree, noted the terrible shape of the Wild-man, and began to be afraid; but calling on the gods, he requested their aid against this Monster. Orson all this while was still busied in beholding the horse; and still offered him such injury with his nails, that the horse did nothing but kick and bite him: When Orson perceived the horse to be too hard for him, he caught fast hold on him, and thought to have over-thrown him: Valentine perceiving his horse in danger to be slain, he cried out aloud, and said, Wild-man, leave my horse, and stay till I come down, and with me thou shalt have fighting enough. The Wild-man hearing a strange voice, looked up into the tree, and espying there a man, made unto him divers signs, with his hands and head, to come down,

and

cended of more noble Lineage, than as yet to us appeareth. And I, for my part for the divers vertues that are daily seen in him am willing that he go to my Daughter when ever he please, for I am well assured, that no dishonour can be offered out of a branch of such a generous Spirit.

Hautray hearing the King make this apology on the behalf of Valentine, was sore displeased in heart; but setting a good face upon the matter, dissembled his countenance for that time; but it seemed Valentine well observed him, and at last brake forth into these words: Hautray, without any cause given on my part, you have spoken ill of me, and your will it is, that I should undertake the fight and conquest of the Wild-man, only to this end, that I might end my days, and so your revenge be accomplished upon me: Well, be it so, here before the King, I take a solemn oath, that I will take the enterprize upon me, and find out the Wild-man; and having found him, I will fight him, and either bring him alive or dead, or else leave my dead Carcass as a witness in the open field. But if I conquer and live, I will never more be seen in this Country, till I have found the Father that begot me; as also, bring to light whether I was lawfully begotten in wedlock, and how I came to be left an Infant in the wood. The King understanding well what danger Valentine had plung'd himself into, grew exceedingly angry against his two Sons, cursing them, for that they were the cause of this enterprize; for he loved Valentine more than any, and at last called unto Valentine, and said, My Child, advise you well what you undertake; for to fight with the Wild-man, is desperation it self; for you cannot be ignorant how many valiant men, and worthy Champions have by him been overcome: And others likewise of valiant account, that hath forsaken this combate. Therefore, I say, let not the evil words of a few malicious Men make you desperate, in losing your life. For my child, it is far better to endure all the bitter words of envy (which is accounted vertue) than to hazard ones life against such a monster, and no man. Valentine replied, Pardon me my Leige, for I will never revoke my intended purpose: They call me found-brat which grieveeth my very soul; for indeed I know not what I am, nor of what place; but I rest determined, and so take my leave; for to morrow morning will I set forward to my intended enterprize. Having taken his leave, marchel not, tho' the fair Lady Eglantine made great lamentation for what had hapned; but the next morning, by brake of day, she called one of her Maidens, and said, Go to Valentine, and bid him come and speak with me before his departure; bid him fear no danger of life, for I would fain take my leave of him. The Damisel did as the Lady commanded; and when she came to Valentine, she found him mounted on horse.

horse-back, and she did her message unto him. He understanding her errand, said unto her, Damsel, I know the love to be great between the Lady Eglantine and me, yet I would not wish her to desire that that will turn to her dishonour: But envy is of so great power, that it never leaves them whom it once possesseth. For certain it is, that Haufray and Henry (brethren to your Lady) have at me great and malicious hearts, and will pursue me, even unto death, if it were possible; wherefore, fair Damsel, bear her this answer, which you heard me tell, and bid her think no evil thereof; and further, that she hold me in excuse, that I refuse to come; and so farewell.

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and he would pull him in pieces. Valentine making all the hast he could, threw his sword, and leap'd upon the ground close by the Wild-man; when Orson saw the sword, and that he offered to smite him therewith, he leaped back, and kept himself from the stroke; but suddenly returned again upon Valentine, and threw him unto the ground: Herewithal Valentine was very much discomfited, for he looked for no other than present death in the place; for he felt the strength of the Wild-man so great, that he had no hope of escaping. Being thus both grovelling on the ground, Valentine assayed divers times to have gotten Orson under him, but could not; when he saw, that by strength, there was no hope to overcome him, he drew out a sharp pointed Knife, and smote Orson into one of his sides, that the blood issued out abundantly; Orson feeling himself wounded, all enraged, gave such a shriek, that the woods echoed again at the sound thereof; but yet recovering himself, he so fiercely assaulted Valentine, with his sharp nails, that he got him at such an advantage, that he threw him once more upon the earth, where lying, they fought so long together, that it were tedious here to utter. At last Orson took the shield from about the neck of Valentine, and having got it, he beheld it right strangely, in regard of the divers colours therein emblazed: When he had looked his fill, he cast it against the ground, and suddenly returned again to Valentine, and with the violence of his nails and teeth, he brake in pieces both the ribs of his armour, and his habergeon also, smiting and beating him so sharply, with his nails, that he made the blood follow in all places whereon he laid hold: Valentine feeling himself sore wounded, after some orisons used to the gods, he made again upon Orson with his sword, thinking to have smitten him; but Orson recoyling back, step'd unto a tree hard by, which he pulled up, and made thereof a club; being thus prepared, he made against Valentine, and striking at him, he gave him such a blow, that he made him fall upon one knee; Valentine recovering again, laid about him so fiercely, that there began again another dangerous fight between the two Brethren, not knowing they were so, nor the cause of this their fortunes. Orson was so cruel and strong, that he could oftentimes have killed Valentine, had it not been for his sword; for he was sore afraid thereof, by reason he had received a wound before by a knife; long time they fought together, insomuch, as they both grew faint: In which tiredness, both standing gaping upon each other; Valentine looked wisely upon Orson, and said thus: Wild-man, wherefore dost thou not yield thy self unto me? here thou livest like a beast, having no knowledge of Humane Society; come thy way with me, and I shall make thee know thy self, and others; I will give thee Food of all

sorts, and also cloath the in apparel fitting Humane shape. Orson understanding by signs he means his good, fell down upon his knees, & stretch-
ed forth his hands towards his Brother, making signs unto him, to forgive
him, and he would commit himself under his command; and with further
signs promised, that, during his life, he would assist him both in body and
goods. This happening thus, it was great joy to Valentine, in that he
had conquered the Wild-man, which so many Knights durst not meddle
withal; for by this only he had won himself more honour, than any Knight
that lived in France. All this hard adventure now knitting up in this
manner, he took Orson by the hand, and shewed him by signs, that he
should go on before him, till they were out of the wood, for he would not
trust him behind; and being out of the wood, Valentine took off one of his
Girts, and bound both his hands fast unto his body, that he should not at-
tempt again to do him any hurt; & in this manner, being bound, he moun-
ted on horse-back, and led the wild-man after him, like a beast, who never
resisted; which was a thing most of all to be wondered at.

Valentine took his way towards Orleance; but you must imagine he could
not reach there in one day, therefore he determin'd to lodge at the next Town
or Village; being come thither, he thought there to take rest that night,
but the Inhabitants perceiving the wild-man, every Man ran into his house,
shutting up their doors; and for very fear, durst not offer once to look out
on him: Valentine perceiving them full of fear, cryed out unto them, say-
ing, Open your doors every man, and fear not, for we are come only for
lodging; yet for all this, they would not give him succour. At last, see-
ing neither intreaty or threatnings would prevaile, he swore most bitterly,
that if they would not receive him into their houses to rest there that night,
he would let loose the wild-man amongst them; still he proceeded to intreat
for lodging, but none would give it him. At last, as he had threatened, so
he did; and letting loose the wild-man, he made him signs how he should
run against such a Gate, which was an Inn, the which he did; and wing-
ing a post from out of the earth, he therewithal flung them open, with such
violence, that they fell off the hooks upon the Ground. Valentine seeing
the Gate opened in this manner, entered the house, and the wild-man with
him: But when they within saw the Gate broken down, all forsook the
house, and ran out at the back-door, leaving all to Valentine, and his
beastly Guest: Valentine perceiving them all fled, went to the Stable, &
set up his horse, and dressed him; and Orson, in the mean time went in-
to the kitchen, where there was Capons, and divers other provisions of
flesh, upon a spit roasting at the fire. Valentine made signs to Orson, that
he

he should turn the spit; but as soon as Orson understood his meaning, he set his horny callons upon the meat, and tore it from the spit, devouring it as greedily as a ravenous wolf; when he had torn the meat in peices, he espied a cauldron of water standing by, into which he put his head like a horse, and drank water unmeasurably. Valentine perceibing him to be a rhyt, made signs unto him, that he should forsake the water, and he would give him wine; and therewithal took a pot, and led him into the Cellar; when Valentine had drawn the pot full, he gave it unto Orson, who set it to his mouth, and tasting the liquor, found it to be very good, drinking so freely thereof, that he drank out all the wine, and afterward threw the pot against the Ground, making a sign for more: Valentine fulfilled his signs, and filled him the pot again; but Orson espying a little bowl-dish, he put the wine into it, and carried it into the Stable to Valentine's horse; but Valentine perceibing that, made signs unto him, that his horse drank nothing but water; yet Orson shewed again by signs, that wine was a great deal better than water. Many other accidents happened while they were in the house, which here we will pass over; for the night was so far spent, that Rest were fitter for them, than Meate. Valentine hastned him to supper, making Orson to bear him company (after his kind) but Orson drank so freely of the wine that Valentine gave him, that he became drunk; and in the end got him to the fire, and fell fast asleep. Valentine seeing what had happened, said, Now do I perceibe there is neither any strength, nor resistance in this Wild-man; for if I would, I could suddenly here end his days: But in regard he would make further tryal of him, he punched against him with his foot so hard, that it awaked him: Being awaked, he made signs unto him, that there was People about the house: with that Orson suddenly rose as in a trance, and catching up a great log within the chimney, he ran against the Gate of the house, that he made all shake again; at which sudden action, Valentine fell into a great laughter; which Orson perceibing, let all alone, and betook himself to rest again. Valentine made unto him another sign, that he should fear nothing, for he would be his watch-man; but Orson would not sleep again, but with the log in his arms: And Valentine did as he had promised unto Orson, and watched all that night, fearing the Inhabitants, lest that they should grow into an uproar: for they were so greatly possessed with fear, that they forsook their houses, and ran every one to the Church, and all that night so tumbled the Bells backward, that ere the morning came, all the Village was filled with Men of war. Now the morning being come, Valentine betook him to his horse, leading Orson bound (as he did the day before) towards Orleance, and the next

day came to the City: The Inhabitants of the City perceiving the Wild-man, ran every one into his house, shutting their doors, and getting up into their highest rooms, gazed out of their windows. Being entered the City, tidings came to King Pepin, that valentine had conquered the Wild-man: The King hearing thereof, was greatly astonished, and at last said of valentine, my Child, in a happy hour wast thou born, blessed be the Father that got thee, & the Mother that was delivered of thee in the wood; for now I see thou art fortunate, and by thee are we delivered of our fears. Valentine rode thro' the City of Orleance, till he came at the Palace-gate of the King; and when the Porter saw Orson, he shut the Gates upon them, till Valentine, with a loud voice, said, Fear not, but go and tell the King that I will shield him, and all his Court from the Fury of this Wild-man; for I have made him so tame, that he will not hurt any one. The Porter went and told the King what Valentine said, who commanded they should enter the Palace. Then Valentine took Orson by the hand, and led him into the Court. When Bertha, and the fair Eglantine heard that the Wild-man was come, they got them to their Chambers for fear; Valentine went up into the great Hall, where the King sat, accompanied with his Nobles, kindly welcoming him home: Amongst the rest stood Haufray and Henry, who also made great shew of love, but in heart wished the Wild-man had been his death. King Pepin, and the rest of the Lords gazed on the Wild-man, insomuch, as the King said, He is made of a proper mould, fair of stature; and though now he seem rough, yet if he were cloathed, he would become the shape of a right worthy Knight. Then Valentine said, My Liege, it were requisite he were baptized. It pleaseth me well (said the King) let it be done: So the Priest was appointed to Baptize him; these were his God-fathers, King Pepin, the Duke of Mil-lain, and Valentine; and the Dutches of Bourbon his God-Mother: So they call'd his name Orson: The Baptism being solemnized, the King sat him down to dinner, and Valentine waited on his cup. Then Orson was commanded in the Hall to see his behaviour; & being come, the King beheld him earnestly. Orson seeing the meat, took as much as he could grasp in his hand, and devoured it; having eaten that, he espied one of the Attendants carrying a Peacock to the table, who coming near unto him, he snatched it, and sat him down and devoured it. Valentine seeing his behaviour, made signs unto him, that he did not well, whereat Orson seemed ashamed; but the King bad him let him alone, for he much delighted in his rudeness. Orson having devoured much meet, got a pot of wine, and drank it off, throwing the pot to the Ground. Night being come, valen-

tine

tine and Orson was appointed to a fair Chamber and Bed; but as soon as Orson entred, he laid him down on the Ground, and so fell asleep.

Chap. X. How Haufray and Henry took Counsel together, to Murther Valentine, in the Chamber of Eglantine. And how Duke Savary sent unto King Pepin, for aid against the Green knight, who would have his Daughter in Marriage against his Will.

Right glad and joyful was the fair Lady Eglantine, that valentine had conquered the wild-man, insomuch that she sent him word to bring the wild-man into her presence. Then valentine took Orson by the hand, and led him to Eglantine, where were assembled divers Ladies of honour to behold him; Orson being in the Chamber, in a laughing humour leapt upon the Bed, there making divers signs unto the Ladies, which pleased them, but his meaning they could not understand; at which they were right sorry. At last Valentine opened to them his meaning; which was, that he would gladly kiss and play with some of them, whereat they looked at one another, and began to laugh. While this Assembly of the Ladies chanced in the Chamber of Eglantine, Haufray came to Henry, and said thus unto him: Brother, you see how the honour and credit of this Foundling encreaseth, which much eclipseth ours, and we must seek some remedy for it. It is true (said Henry) wherefore let us lay some Plot to cut him off. Then said Haufray, hearken to what I shall say, Valentine is now with our Sister, and we may have fit occasion to kill him in her Chamber: When we have done, we will inform the King, that we found him in her Bed. According to their determination they put it into action, and rushed into the Chamber of Eglantine: As soon as Haufray was entred, he roughly thus began with Valentine: Disloyal Man, now shalt thou know the price of thy Inconstancy, purchasing daily great dishonour unto the King our Father, by abusing our Sister, and leading her Affections to work your pleasure on her; insomuch, as by thee she is made unfortunate: But Alas the King hath been told thereof, and he regarded not our complaint, it is therefore high time to take vengeance of thee in our own persons. And Haufray lift up his fist, and calling him Traytor, smote valentine on the Face, so that the Blood ran out of his mouth. Henry, on the other side, came to him, and with a Glasbe, thought to have smitten valentine to the Earth; but Orson perceiving they were in earnest, leapt out, and gave Haufray such a stroak with his rough hand, that he felled him; and after ran to Henry, and Girded him so between his arms, that, if the Ladies had

had not been in presence to have appeased his wrath, he had destroyed them both. This caused an out-cry in the Chamber, whereat came all the Barons of the Court, to know the cause of this sudden clamour; but when they understood that Orson had dealt so violently with the King's Sons, they would have killed them with their swords: valentine perceiving their fury to arise, drew his sword, and swore, That if any of them offered violence to Orson, he would run them through; this said, he made a sign to him to be still, and so rested himself for that time. Haufray and Henry went to their Father, making unto him great complaint against valentine, and the Wild-man, saying, Father, in an ill hour was this valentine born, for he hath brought hither the wild-man, only to work our overthrow; and if you put him not to death, he will shortly do the like against your Royal Person. The King hearing this complaint, was exceeding sorry, and gave them this answer: That as for Orson, he would have him put into a strong Tower, where he should be safely kept, and not come abroad without leave Given him; and as for valentine, the King sent for him, to demand the cause of this disorder. Valentine being come before the King, began to say on this manner: Dread Sovereign, I was in the Chamber of your Daughter Elgantine, accompanied with divers other Ladies, that desired to see Orson: I know not how, nor why your two Sons violently entered, charging me, that I had abused the body of your fair Daughter. Whereupon, in the heat of their violence used against me, Haufray smote me on the face, that the blood issued out of my mouth; & Henry lifting up a Glabe, thought to have taken away my life. All which, when Orson saw, he suddenly made towards them, and smote them both to the Earth, and therewithal began this uproar. The King hearing this Tale, said, And is this true that you have said? Upon my life (said Valentine) all that I have spoken is true. Then said the King, Orson hath done nothing but right, and that which in duty he ought to do. And as for you, Haufray and Henry, I see very well, that you are even swollen full of malice against Valentine; wherefore I charge you from henceforth, that you attempt no ill against him; for here I vow, that I would not lose him for the best Baron in my Land, for I have made many trials of his love and faithfulness towards me. And with this answer Haufray and Henry departed, altho' sorrowful in heart, that they could not work their wills upon him.

They being Gone, Valentine stayed still in the king's Hall, with the other Nobles that were there assembled, and Orson went here and there round about the Palace; at last he came unto the kitchen, where the Cooks were making ready supper, and being there, he espied two Capons ready
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for the fire, made towards the Capons, set upon them, and eat them up raw like a hungry dog: The Cook seeing him eat up his Capons, took a pestle that lay by him, and lent him such a blow, that he made him bow therewith; Orson feeling the blow, stooped down, and took the Cook between the legs, and threw him down upon the Ground, and when down, he so belaboured the poor Cook, that he had like to beat him to death. Tydings was brought unto the king, that Orson had slain the Cook, and none durst come near him. The king hearing thereof, willed him to be brought before him, and made signs unto him that he should be hanged. But Orson fetched the Pestle, and made signs how the Cook had beaten him therewith; wherefore the king commanded, that none should offer him any injury. So after that, Valentine taught him manners, how he should behave himself: and so they both lived quietly in the Court.

It chanced that not long after the coming of Valentine and Orson into the Court, that Duke Savary sent certain Messengers unto king pepin, which said unto him, Great king, our good Duke hath sent us unto you, to request your Aid against a false and accursed Pagan (called the Green knight) who hath besieged his Confiner, and intended to have his Daughter by force of Arms, notwithstanding all the resistance that he and his three Sons can make. The king having heard this message, made this answer: We agree to give him all the Aid we can. He had no sooner given answer unto the Messengers, but there was come unto the Court another Messenger from Lyons. Who after his duty done unto the king, said thus, Renowned king, assemble your Men of War in readiness, and conduct them towards Lyons, for the Almains are coming against you in Great Numbers; their whole force consisting of above an hundred thousand fighting Men. The king hearing of this sudden news, was much troubled in mind, and presently called before him the Arch-bishop of Rhemes, the Duke of Myllon Daugler, Garvas and Sampson, these with others of his Nobles being Assembled he declared what the Messenger had said, and withal, craved their counsel what was best to be done, whether to go to Aquitain, to succor Duke Savary or to Lyons, to Resist the Almains? Whereunto Myllon Daugler made this answer, The Duke, I confess, deserveth to be succoured, but yet in two extremes, let us chuse the less: Therefore I judge it most meet, first to defend our own Land, that is now in present danger; and for the Duke, he must be content to take our present Affairs for answer. So generally it was concluded to go for Lyons. With these words, the Messenger that came from Duke Savary, departed, and carried these tydings with him to Aquitain, which made him very sorrowful to hear it, be-
cause

cause the Green Knight had very strongly assailed him. Now here, gentle Reader, I let you understand, for the better ordering your proceedings, this Green Knight here spoken of, was Brother to Ferragus, the Giant that kept the Lady Bellissant in his Castle who was the distressed Mother of these two Infants, born in the Wood, called Valentine and Orson, as it is before declared. Duke Savary perceiving no hope of aid from King Pepin, made open Proclamation throughout all his Dominions, That all, of what condition soever, should be ready arm'd against the morrow after, for he would then go out upon the Green Knight, and fight with him in the field; all which was accordingly performed. The day appointed being come, both Armies met, as well horse as foot; the Pagans presented themselves in multitudes, and the Green Knight behaved himself so valiantly, that at the first encounter, with his Battel-Ax, at two blows, he slew two valiant knights: Duke Savary perceiving him to be so valiant a General, came up to encounter him, and meeting, they assailed each other; but the Duke was ill advised to venture his body against the Green Knight, because it was ever peremptorily reported of him, that he should never be overcome of any, except he were a King's Son; and such a one as had never sucked the breasts of any Woman. But the Green Knight was herein deceived, for he thought it impossible any such Man should be upon the face of the Earth, but it fell out contrary to his expectation, as you shall understand.

Let us now return to the two valiant Leaders, who fought long and fiercely; but the Duke ventured so far into the Enemies hands, that when he had thought to have retired, he could not; for he was round begirt with such multitudes of Pagans, that he was taken prisoner, and brought back unto the Green knight, whose Ransom could not be granted for any gold or treasure. His men at arms perceiving the Duke surprized, returned to Aquitain, sore lamenting the loss of their good Duke. And his three Sons, Garin the elder, Anselme, and Garin the younger, made great mean to see the hard hap of their Father.

The Sons having shewed their Sorrows, in comes Fezon his Daughter, with this lamenting out-cry: Alas, in an ill hour was I born, seeing that so many valiant Knights and Gentlemen have suffered death in my quarrel; and yet there is one thing more troubleth my discompered soul than all the rest; which is this, That my Father would be held Captive in the hands of his Enemies, the only way to bring his aged years with sorrow to the grave. Alas! (dear Father) your love to me is the only cause of all these disastrous chances. Thus fell Fezon into a dangerous fit of discontent, inasmuch, as with this extremity of sorrow, she had well nigh finished her days, had not
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the rest of the Ladies attending, laboured to comfort her in this great sorrow, wherewith she was almost overcome. Whilst the Lady was thus oppressed with sorrow, the Green knight triumphed over the worthy Duke, causing him to be brought before him into his Pavilion; and having him there, began to revile him in this disdainful manner: Duke, now thou perceivest that thou art my Vassal, and that I have power over thy Life; this that I speak thou canst not deny; therefore let me tell thee what thou shalt expect from my sacred lips; either give me thy Daughter Fezon to Wife, and to redeem thy life: or else I will have her against thy Will, leading her amongst rough Mountains, and there Royally Crown her Queen of those craggy Mansions. The Duke hearing these proud menaces, began thus to reply: Proud and insolent Sarazen, know this, that I will never give consent that thou have my Daughter, except thou also subscribe to be Baptized. The Green knight hearing him say so, replied, Urge me not further, for I am wholly bound to Mahomet, wherefore once again I tell thee, except thou yield to my demand, I will first make thee finish thy days miserably, and afterwards consume all Aquitain to ashes; and after that, put to the sword all that come in my way, Men, Women, and Children. The Duke hearing this Pagan thus resolute, began again on this manner: Pagan, the Gods protect me from thy cruelty; for I had rather rely on their power than thine. The Green knight hearing him say so, began afresh with him on this manner: Grave Duke, leave off these thy sad laments, and hearken unto my relation, and resolution also, and this it is: I am not ashamed to let you understand, that thy Daughter's beauty hath enthralled me, and therefore I will recall my threatened sentence of death against thee; out of which captivate affections towards thy Daughter, I am forced to yield to condition: That thou shalt find out a Knight within the space of six months, to encounter me; and if it so happen, that by strength of Arms, he can Conquer me, I vow by Mahomet, to send thee back into thy own Country, without wasting of the same: But if it happen that I prove Conqueror over that Knight, then shalt thou willingly resign thy fair Daughter into my hand, to be my lawful Wife. These Articles being produced, the Duke willingly agreed thereunto, so the Truce was accordingly proclaimed. These Agreements thus concluded, the Green Knight gave leave that Duke Savary should depart, upon conditions, that he should swear to keep covenants, not only for the present, but during his life. The Duke being thus delibered, made his repair to Aquitain, whether being come, he caused open Proclamation to be made of these conditions, wherunto he had before subscribed concerning his said Daughter; and withal, the truce taken

ken for the space of six months. His Counsellors hearing what was past, advised him to dispatch Messengers into all Lands, with these advertisements following: If there were any Knight whatsoever, that durst Encounter the Green Knight for the love of the Beautious Lady Fezon, he should lay down his Gage, and so he answered. These Letters were sent into twelve Christian Lands: What followed, you may better learn by the succeeding Chapter.

Chap. XI. How divers Knights arrived at Aquitain, at a solemn Just there holden to bear away the Love of the beautious Lady Fezon. How Gaufray and Henry, accompanied with a Troop of their Confederates, lay in Ambush to take away the Life of Valentine.

During this time of the truce, between Duke Savary, and the Green Knight, King Pepin, had taken his Journey against his Enemies at Lyons, accompanied with a mighty host; being come before the City with his Forces, he set upon King Lamparris, who had also brought into the field a hundred thousand Men: Lamparris was King of Sires, Holland, and Frizeland, with the Country of Monemarch, in the which stood a very strong City, whereunto they withdrew themselves. King Pepin getting knowledge hereof, strongly beleaged it, insomuch that at last they were constrained to yield, or suffer Banishment; but resolving upon the safety of their lives, they yielded the City, which the King bestowed upon Guy, Marshal of France.

The wars being ended, Pepin returned into France, with all his warlike Soldiers; being arrived at Paris, it was told him, Duke Savary had taken truce with the Green Knight, and the manner how; whereat the King laughing, said, in the presence of his Barons, Who is he amongst you that would win fair Fezon for his Love, he must take upon him a Combate against the Green Knight, whom if he Conquer and Overcome, the Duke will not only Give him his Daughter, but one half of his Possessions; and, that this is true, behold Letters written with his own hand. Every one of these worthy Knights viewed these Letters; yet none of them durst undertake the Enterprize, save only Valentine, who perceiving them all refuse it, said thus unto the King, dear Sovereign, if it please you to give me leave, I will adventure my strength upon that Green Knight, and will Gladly undertake the task: Again, I have a great desire to leave France, for I long to take in hand some tedious Journey, to find out the Mother that bore me, and from whence I am descended. Valentine, said the King, take

take thou no care, whence thou art, for it resteth in my power to make thee Greater than any Man within my Court: And for that I find thee willing to go to Aquitain, I freely give thee leave; but on condition, That after thou hast tryed thy Manhood with the Green Knight, thou return, if thou escape with life. Valentine yielded to the King in his demand, and so, taking leave, he shortly after prepared to his Journey. When Eglantine heard that he would go to Aquitain, she was very sorrowful, and at last, in the midst of Tears, sent for Valentine to come to her; Valentine promised the Messenger to be with her anon, which accordingly he performed; and being come, she burst out in Tears, saying, Ah, Valentine! now I do well perceive that all my Joys are at an end, and that you are resolved to leave this Country of France: Ah! would it might be my Good hap to go with you, for there is not a Man living, whom I hold so dear as you, and (were not I curbed by my birth) I would make thee my Husband. And that thou maist the better perceive my true intent, take thou here the keys of my treasure, and take what pleaseth thee, for there is great store; and the Gods give thee succour, in all thy Knightly enterprizes. Lady, quoth he, Silver and Gold I need none; but that which most of all distempereth my breast, is, That I cannot learn of my Descent: Moreover, one thing more troubleth me as much as the other, which is, That I bare upon one of my shoulders a Cross, & is of the colour of Gold, of which sign I know not what to gather; but resolve thus, never to rest in any place, until such time as I have found out the truth of my Nativity. And so, lovely Lady, I take my leave, earnestly requesting you to stop the Current of these Tears: And withal, I vow, That if I find my birth answerable to the Majesty from whence you are descended, to take you as my only Choice to Wife, forsaking all other. On the other side, having found out my birth, and perceiving it not answerable to yours, I would not be your Husband for all the wealth in the World: For malicious tongues in time to come will say, Where's the Brother, Sisters, or Cousins of this Runagade, that hath presumed to match himself unto the Daughter of our mighty King Pepin? Having spoken these words, he departed, leaving Eglantine full of Grief. But when she had some little time sat still, she could not be satisfied, but offered to follow him whithersoever he went; and in conclusion, brought him some part of his way, being accompanied with divers of the Nobility. Valentine being departed, Haufray and Henry were right Glad, privily conspiring how to bring it to pass, that he and Orson, who went along with him, might by Treachery come unto an untimely Death.

Valentine and Orson having taking their leave of King Pipin, addressed themselves for Aquitain. Being on their way, Haufray and Henry consulted together, joyning to their Aid a Third, who was Cousin to them, how they might lye in Ambush to set upon Valentine and Orson, to work their Destruction: which number was about thirty able Men. This plot being thus come to perfection, charge was Given to these warlike Men, that if they could not overcome Valentine and his Brother Orson to Death, yet they should lay hold on Valentine and keep him safe. The place appointed where this should be done, was a very Large and Great Forrest, thro' which they must needs pass. Not long after the Ambush was pitched, it chanced that Valentine came riding along, with Orson running by his side swifter than any horse, who coming near the place where these Men lay, forth steps their Captain, called Gryger, accompanied with all his Troop,



with their weapons drawn, thinking to have surprized Valentine on the sudden, and to have put him to Death: Now this fierce Traytor lent him such a mortal Blow, that the Sword pierced quite thro' his Armour, and entered into the flesh, insomuch as the blood followed the Blow, and withal uttered

rered these unwelcome words, Valentine, either yield thy self Captive, or
 receive thy Death. Valentine, as a Man all amazed, was somewhat move-
 ed at the sight of his Blood, and considering how he was encompass'd with
 a multitude of his Enemies, recommending his Innocency unto the Gods,
 at last spoke on this manner: My Lords, speaking to Hautray and Henry,
 I see well that you have determined my days by Treason, and without cause
 on my part given; but yet I assure you, that before I yield my self into
 your hands, or before this days Sun be set, I shall send some of you here
 present into such a Country, that you shall scarcely ever return again to
 bring tydings of your Valour. And therewithal drew forth his Sword,
 and gave the first that Encountred him such a Blow upon the Head, that he
 Clabe him even to the Teeth, and there he lay for Dead: After that, he be-
 took him towards the rest, with such violence that at every stroke one fell
 before him. Orson perceiving his Brother thus to lay about him, began to
 Rouze himself, and with his rough hands and piercing talions, rent and
 tore all that came in his way, and so bit them with his teeth, that they fell
 Groveling unto the Ground one upon another, where he trampled over them
 like dirt, pinching them with his feet. Valentine seeing Orson thus bestir
 himself, held up his bloody Sword, defending himself, and offending his
 Enemies so valiantly, that they all forsook them, and durst not stay within
 their sight: Grygar, their Captain, perceiving all his Men thus killed and
 overcome, cryed out with a loud voice on this manner: Valentine, yet I
 wish thee yield, or else look for nothing but Death. Valentine hearing these
 insulting words, made towards Grygar, and in a furious manner assailed
 him, but being too forward, he plunged himself into the Throng, that he
 was enclosed round about, keeping off Orson with their long spears. Being
 thus beset with Enemies, he still behaving himself so valiantly that none
 durst lay hands upon him, till at last they gathered in so close upon him, that
 he was overcome with Multitudes, and being not able any longer to wield
 his Sword, they took him, bound him, and carry'd him away. Orson per-
 ceiving his Brother thus posted away, ran after, making a hideous Noise;
 but he could not overtake them, for they rid swifter than he could run, and
 having at last lost sight of them, knew not which way he were best to take.
 Grygar commanded them to follow after Orson, and to bring him back, ei-
 ther alive or dead; but in vain they followed, for he out-run them, and so
 escaped. Those that had the Charge of Valentine, brought him to a Castle
 standing in the midst of a Forrest, kept by a Notable Thief, who was Cou-
 sin-german to Grygar; Valentine being entred the Castle-gate, they en-
 treated him evilly, and conveyed him to a deep Dungeon, which grieved him
 to

to the heart, insomuch that he burst out in these speeches: Alas, now is that come upon me which I ever feared, for I am fallen into the hands of my deadliest Enemies; and those that have ever sought my life. Farewel King Pepin, for I fear I shall never see thee more; and that which most vexeth me, is, that they shall never understand the truth of my death, for the stench of this loathsome dungeon doth even stop my breath. Farewel Orson, for thou hast already suffered Death for my sake; and more could no man do, even as much as if thou hadst been my natural Brother. Farewel my dear Mother also, whom I have ever laboured to find out, that I might see and know her, but my hopes are all frustrated, for I now must dye without the knowledge of what Parentage I am descended. Thus he lamented, whilst his Enemies determine what shall be done to him: Some were of Opinion to put him to Death; others, that he should be committed to a perpetual Imprisonment, But Grygar, being Lord over the rest, would not yield he should be put to death, but rather to keep him in Prison till Haufray and Henry have received knowledge of their proceedings. Making thus set down their resolution, they determine to take their Journey towards Paris, where the King then lay, to meet with Haufray and Henry, who entertained them Royally, being right glad that Valentine was fallen into their hands. Now understand, that Orson all that night was faine to rest within the Wood, lying down at the root of a Tree; the morning being come, he took his way towards Paris, never resting till he came into the presence of King Pepin: Being come thither, by signs and tokens he shewed the manner of the taking of Valentine; but yet for all the haste he made, Grygar arrived at the Court before him. Haufray and Henry were much Grieved that Orson had escaped, but all their comfort was, he could not speak, thinking thereby for to Escape from Distrust and Suspicion, but their Hopes were soon laid in the Dust, as hereafter will appear.

The next day the two Brethren had appointed that Grygar should return in all haste, to the Castle, to put Valentine to Death, thereby thinking all their Treasons might pass Undiscovered. But see how it came about that all their Counsels were quite overthrowen; for Orson came unto the King's Palace that morning, and growing towards dinner-time, the Tables being all prepared, the King, accompanied with sundry Nobles, Barons, and Knights, came in, and every Man took his place. The King being set, and casting his Eyes about, suddenly spied Orson, whom when he beheld, he thought by him that Valentine was not far off, but it fell out contrary. Orson ran through the Hall, making a lamentable noise, and knock.

knocking his breast in a most hideous and fearful manner, which drove the King into ten thousand fears, and all the rest who beheld this lamentable spectacle. Orson ran along by the Table, looking very fiercely upon every Man, and making many fearful signs: Amongst the rest, at the last he lighted upon the Traytor Grygar, who spying Orson hung his head in his bosom: Orson having once got the sight of him, run furiously upon him, and gave him such a sturdy stroke, that he smote off his ears; after he began to lay upon his face, in so much that he put out one of his eyes, and broke one of his teeth. Grygar being thus wounded, began to cry out for help; but Orson hearing him make such an uproar, ran again upon him, and gave him such another stroke, that he felled him unto the Earth, overthrowing tables, meat, and all that stood before him, which drove all the Beholders into admiration: And had he not been rescued by a valiant Prince that then sat at board, he had never gone from that place alive: The Prince having rescued him, began to say unto the King on this manner: Mighty King, consider into what danger this Man is fallen by the fury of this Wild-man: and either let him dye for this presumptuous fact, or no man will be able to come into your Court. The King hearing him say so, replied, We will consider the cause, and as we find it so we will proceed against him: Bring him hither before us, that we may question the cause of the fact. Orson was upon these words brought before the King, and he demanded, How he durst presume so far into the presence of his Majesty? Orson answered by signs how he had slain Valentine in the Forrest, and that he would be Revenged for his Death, on that inhumane Traytor Grygar; and withal closed his fist, and put it to his mouth in great rage, in token of defiance. King Pepin perceiving by his actions, the cause of the matter, called forth unto all the Lords and Barons on this manner: My Lords, you see, as well as I, that this Wild-man hath challenged Grygar to fight him; therefore tell me your Opinions, what is best to be done in this case, for I cannot chuse but marvel why this Wild-man should find out Grygar above all the rest of the Knights here assembled; therefore let every man freely speak. for I much doubt some hidden secret to lie therein; and for my part, I could willingly give consent that it should be tryed forth by Combat between them. When the King had thus uttered what he thought, the Barons agreed to the verdict that the King had passed. So the Barrel was determined, and Grygar was brought to the King, to the intent he should undergo the Challenge against the Wild-man; Grygar hearing what the King had determined, was very fearful, and sad, and not without cause, for he fore-saw that his Treason would

come

come to light; and therewithal cast an ill-faboured eye on Haufray. Henry perceiuing Grygar stand so amazed, said, Grygar, fear not, for I promise thee, howeuer it fall out, that no danger shall come unto thee from our Father the King, for we will work your peace, so thou wilt swear neuer to reueal the fact. *Pea*, quoth he, I well perceiue how the case will go with me, I must suffer a reproachful Death for your sakes. Having thus said, he left Henry, and returned again unto the King, saying, Right King, let me make one request unto your Majesty, that you would dismiss me from this dangerous task; the reason chiefly moving me, is, that inso-much that it is not man against man, whereby a Knight may win honour, but a wild Savage to encounter with a Man, and no Knight: I think I may safely, so your Grace be pleased, refuse the Combat. *Nay*, quoth the King, no excuse in this case can be admitted, for the combat is granted, not only by my advice, but also by the Counsel of my Barons; and the reason moving us to grant it, was, that Treason long lying hid, might come to light. Grygar hearing it thus concluded on, grew more into despair; but Haufray being there, comforted him again on this manner: Doubt not, for you have equity on your part; and besides, I will see you well armed in all points, fitting your Knightly Race. When Orson gathered by signs, that he should fight with this Traytor, he was right glad; and withal, made shew unto the King that Valentine was dead; whereat the King grew wondrous sad. And fain would Orson have been upon the back of Grygar, but that the King commanded him to be taken away; making signs unto him that he should strike no more, till the time they could meet for the tryal of the truth. Again, the King called unto Grygar, to make haste to Arm himself; Grygar loath to venture his life upon so uncertain ground, began once again to speak unto the King, saying, Most dread Sovereign, I have been long Seruitoꝛ about your Person, both in War and Peace; but you reward me not accordingly, inso-much, as you compel me to fight against a Man that hath neither sense, reason, nor in truth, humane shape. Grygar, said the King, if the truth be on your side, you need not fear, for you shall enter into the field well Armed. Again, you shall be well Mounted, be on Foot; nor shall he bear any Weapon. The right, you say, is on your side; wherefore maintain that right, and shew your valour; for the sentence of Combat may not be recalled.

Chap. XII. How Orson and Grygar fought together; and how Orson returning Victor, caused Grygar to confess the Treason, who was after Hanged, and Valentine delivered from the Dungeon. How Grygar being vanquished by Orson, confessed his Treason to King Depin, and how Haufray and Henry, had been the only Plotters thereof against the worthy Valentine.

The place of the Combat being appointed, Orson attended in a readiness for his Enemy; in the end, Grygar, being well armed by Haufray and Henry, took his leave of them on this wise: My Lords, in your cause am I delivered over to death; evil was the day wherein I began this enterprise. Hold thy peace, said Henry, for I will defend thee from the sentence of my Father, and work thy safety, so thou wilt be secret. Grygar being thus armed, and well mounted, went towards the Palace-gate, where this Combat was to be effected: the hour being come, the King repaired to the window, all the Nobles in the Court being assembled; the Judges were appointed, that no wrong should be offered on either part. So Grygar being entered the lists, he espied Orson, and began to draw near unto him, saying, Villain, thou hast offer'd me great wrong, in putting out one of my Eyes; but ere I part, I will make thee acknowledge that wrong, and that thou hast falsely accused me. Orson perceiving whereunto his proud speeches tended, shewed him his Nails, gnawing his Teeth; whereat Grygar suddenly couched his spear, and run upon him; Orson espying the spear bent against him, gave back, whereby Grygar was disappointed of his mark, and ran his spear fast into the ground; Orson taking this advantage, suddenly seized the spear into his own hands, and having hold thereof, gave his Enemy such a stroke therewith, that he astonished him. Grygar feeling the fury of the stroke, set spurs to his horse, and rid like a mad Man about the field; Orson ran after him with a grinning countenance, making signs to the King, that he would ere long force him to yield unto him. Grygar fearing the danger wherein he was like to fall, secretly to himself murmured out these words: Ah, Haufray! for thy cause and sake I am thus delivered over to death. Long and tedious was the fight; but Grygar could never so much as wound the Wild-man. At last Orson cast away his spear, and came to Grygar, in such manner, that he caught his horse fast by the neck, making him so mad and furious, that he obeyed his Rider, and with the fall he lost his shield; which Orson espying, took it up, and put it on his own back; after he came unto Grygar's

gar's horse, and got upon him, riding round about the field, and making ill-favoured signs and tokens; insomuch as all the Beholders stood as men dismayed. Amongst the rest, the King appeared very sorrowful; and at last began thus to speak: My Lords, I know not what to think hereof, neither can I yet perceive whereunto this fight will grow; but it is my opinion, that there is treason smothered, and not yet come to light. Orson having a great while ranged about the field on horse-back, after his Enemy, at last forsook his horse, and encountered Grygar on foot, insomuch, that he lent him such a blow, that he smote him to the earth; afterward he leapt upon him, and disarmed him of his weapons; then the next blow he struck, he smote off one of his Arms; next on the body he gave him such a wound, that he cut him even to the reins of his back. Grygar having received all these wounds, cryed out most piteously, insomuch that every one requested he might have a Priest to confess him of his sins. The Guard that was appointed for the field, hearing these out-crys, sent out a worthy Knight, to demand what he would have done: Unto whom Grygar said, Sir, bring me before the King's Majesty, and before him, and the rest of this Assembly, I shall reveal the Treasons whereof I am guilty, from point to point effectually.

At last Grygar was brought before the King, who asked pardon for his high offence; and in the presence of all the Beholders, told him, That the only Actors in this traiterous plot, were Haufray and Henry his Sons, and by their means he had taken Valentine, and put him in Prison; and there meant to put him to death. The King having heard his tale, and perceiving the whole truth of this plot, commanded Grygar to be hanged upon the next tree he came to. The having thus given sentence against Grygar, called for his horse, and being mounted, made all haste possible unto the prison where Valentine lay. Orson perceiving the King would undertake such a journey, addressed himself to run along by the King's horse, leading him the way, and making many signs of joy and gladness. The King marking well all the Wild-man's behaviour, often spake unto his Lords in this manner: My Lords, it is wonderful that this Wild-man should bear such an ardent affection towards Valentine; and besides, it strikes me into a thousand imaginations. Now you must know, that the King had great cause to love this Wild-man, for that he was his natural Nephew, tho as yet not revealed; neither was the time yet come to bring it to light, till that by Clerimond, Sister to the Giant Ferragus, it should be made manifest; for at that time Clerimond had a Castle, and in it a Head of Bials, composed by Peggomancy; which head told unto Clerimond,

rimond, all that should happen unto her all her life; and also, all that ever she had done in her fore-past time: Besides, this same head was composed by such wondrous Magick-art, that it should never leave off speaking, until the noblest Knight in the World should enter the Castle, and then the head utterly to give over, and never to speak more. This fell out upon Valentine, whom the fair Lady Clerimond shall take to husband, and for whom he shall endure a world of miseries, as in the succeeding history you shall understand. So leave we this, and return back again to King Pepin, where before we left him: King Pepin goeth on towards the forest, to save the life of Valentine; and Orson being with him, brought him unto the Castle wherein he was imprisoned: Being come to the gates thereof, the Porters, knowing the King, barred the Gates; for so they were commanded by the Residue within the Castle. The King perceiving he could not enter in peace, commanded his Attendants to enter by force, and so they did: Being gotten in, they seized upon all the Traitors, and bound them fast in Chains; having so done, they went into the dungeon where Valentine lay bound, and brought him forth unto the King: Valentine espying the King, fell upon his knees, yielding him thanks for that extraordinary kindness shewed to him, in delivering him out of a hell of darkness, and fear of death. The Barons also that attended the King, welcomed him with great joy and gladness, telling him all that had happened, and how that Orson had fought with the Traitor Grygar, in his quarrel, and overcome him. Valentine hearing this, embraced Orson. Afterwards the King commanded that all the Traitors should be led into the wood, and there hanged; and after spake thus unto Valentine, seeing it is thy good hap to be thus miraculously delivered out of the hands of thine Enemies, I would advise thee to abide with me. But he replied, O great overruler, Pardon me, for I will never return again, till I have found out my Parents, of whence I am descended; and so humbly I take my leave of your Majesty.

So here we leave King Pepin, and only look upon Valentine and Orson, who are taking their way towards Aquitain, to fight the Green Knight, a Man feared of all men: For I must call to remembrance, that of which I told you before, that he should never be vanquished by any, save only by a Kings Son that had never sucked Roman. Being come to Aquitain, the People flocked from all parts, to see the rough and unmanly shape of Orson; but Valentine seeing their folly, made him a jacket of steel. When Orson had it on, he was much offended therewith, and would have thrown it away, but he much feared Valentine, and would do any thing he commanded.

ded. Orson having his jacket upon his back, looked much upon himself, and at last became proud thereof, and set his countenance according to his heart. Now, as they were riding on their way, Valentine espied a fair Squire, making much lamentation; Valentine beholding him well, said thus unto him, Friend, what aileth you to shed these tears? have you sustained any wrong, either by Man or beast? Tell me what may be the cause, and I promise you the best of my power to relieve you. Alas, said he, thereof I make no doubt; but know this, that the cause of my laments, is the loss of a most kind and gentle Master; a Man of the greatest valour in Christendom. How have you lost him? (quoth Valentine.) Sir, as I was travelling towards Aquitain, to fight with the Green Knight, thinking thereby to win the fairest Lady in the World, called Fezon, which Lady it is not possible for any one to have, except first he overcome, in single combat, the Green Knight: Divers valiant Knights have there miscarried; and when he conquered them, he caused them to be hanged on a tree; and the number that are already dead, are thirty two, yielding no shew of mercy towards any. Is all this true, quoth Valentine, that thou hast told me? Why then, sure he is some Devil in Man's shape, that doth such strange exploits. But towards Aquitain am I journeying, to try my fortune against him, for I have heard much of that Lady Fezon. Ha, Sir! (quoth the Squire) go not thither, to lose your life by such a Devil. Squire (said Valentine) I will go forward, and mean to cope with that famous Green Knight; but if I can escape him, I will first talk with the Lady Fezon, and take her advertisement.

Orson gathering some understanding of their talk, made signs to Valentine, that he might fight with the Green Knight, and that he would make love to the Lady Fezon; whereat he laughed heartily. By this time, thinking them to come near the City of Aquitain, standing upon a Hill; and meeting with an old Man, he questioned with him, what City that was before him: Marry (quoth he) it is Aquitain. Now tell me (said Valentine) where resteth the Green Knight? Why, Sir, said he, without the City; I think you are going to fight with him. Ay, quoth Valentine. Ah, Sir! (said the old Man) undertake not so foul a folly, for it is not possible to conquer him. Come hither, my Son, and stand thou on this little Hill, and I shall shew thee above forty famous Knights hanging on a tree, whom he hath overcome: Also there is now but fifteen days to be accomplished, and the Duke of Aquitain must part with his fair Daughter Fezon, to his great grief, and the overthrow of the whole Kingdom. Father, quoth Valentine, the Gods defend her. He had no sooner spoke these words, but

there came another ancient Man of fourscore years of age, in the habit of a Pilgrim; this Man was that Blandiman, 'Squire to the distressed Bellifant, and he it was that led the Lady Bellifant into the Castle of Ferragus the Giant, as before we have declared; Valentine espying him, demanded of him whence he was, and whence he came? Sir, quoth the Pilgrim, from Constantinople; but I could not enter into the City, by reason a Pagan Souldan had begirt it with a siege; neither could I come to deliver the message on which I am sent; wherefore I thought it my safest course to return. Pilgrim, quoth Valentine, what thinkest thou of the Green Knight, is it not possible he should be overcome? No, said the Pilgrim, I advise you not to follow the enterprize; for if there were a whole hundred of you, he would see the end of you all. Father, whither go you? (said Valentine.) Sir, I take my readiest way to Paris, for I have a Message to King Pepin, from a Sister of his Pained Bellifant, that long hath been banished from Constantinople wrongfully; and now is the Good Lady in the house of a Giant, that keepeth her, and useth her honourably; intending to know King Pepin's mind, whether he be consented to those wrongs done unto her, for he well knoweth she is a vertuous Lady; and for her sake, offereth to put himself in single Combat with the Emperour of Greece, for that he hath so wrongfully banished her. Palmer, quoth Valentine, I pray thee to return back again with me to Aquitain, for thither am I going, to fight with the green knight: If the Gods give me victory against him, I will accompany thee into France, for I shall tell thee, only for the love I bear unto King Pepin, undertake I this fight, for he hath been the means of my preservation, and as a Father unto me. Therefore to him I dedicate all my labours, and rest wholly at his command. Sir, quoth Blandiman, to this motion I will never consent, for my Lady hath put me in trust to dispatch her affairs, and I will discharge the duty of a trusty Servant towards her; and so, taking my leave, I commend you to the protection of the Gods. The Palmer being gone, Valentine looked long after him, and not without cause, but he wist not why; for this was the Man that had born a part of his Mothers Exiles. Well Valentine took on his Journy, and after some few days, came near to the City of Aquitain. Valentine beheld the City very earnestly, and passing on, he espyed a pleasant Fountain, thither he went, and alighting from his Horse, laid him down under a tree, to refresh him; and Orson was his Keeper all the while. Anon he awak'd and prepared to take Horse again, but suddenly arrived at the same Fountain a most curious Knight, proud, and of so haughty a stomach, that he was stiled the Proud Knight, and withal, so fierce

fierce and resolute, that he never asked question of any Man; yet if he, whom he met, saluted him not, he presently killed him: This Proud Knight came to the Fountain, and Valentine beholding him, said never a word; and Orson also gazed fiercely on him. The Proud Knight was angry in his heart, and approached near unto Orson, and gave him such a blow, that the blood issued out of his Mouth; Orson feeling the blow smart, suddenly took him and threw him on the Earth, and presently espying a knife at the knight's girdle, smote him therewith into the body so deep, that he was nothing but blood. The knight feeling himself wounded, cried out aloud, whereupon Valentine coming in, rescued the knight out of Orson's hands, and said, Fair knight, you have offered great wrong to smite a poor Wild-man on this rude manner, who can speak never a word. With that, the Proud knight began thus roughly to answer Valentine: Proud Mercant, why then dost thou not salute me? And therewith drew forth a Glave, thinking to have smitten him; Valentine seeing the blow, drew forth his sword, and struck at the Proud knight with such violence, that he struck him dead. The proud knight being dead, his Men fled with all the haste they could to Aquitain, bearing tidings of their Master's death. Duke Savary hearing thereof, was greatly displeased, for he was his Cousin. Amongst the rest Valentine understood of the lamentation that was for the death of the Proud knight beside the Fountain; whereupon he suddenly mounted and entered the City, where he log'd in a Burgess's house, whereby it came to the ears of Duke Savary, that he had slain his Cousin. And the Duke commanded that Valentine and his Brother Orson should be brought before him; so being come into the presence of the Duke, he began on this manner: Friend, of whence are you? What Prince do you serve? And whether be ye knights, or no? Sir, said Valentine, I am a knight, and owe my duty and service to the famous Pepin of France. Then said the Duke unto him you have slain my Cousin. 'Tis true, said he, and so I should have done, had it been my own kinsman, for he was of so high a stomach, that he disdain'd to speak to any Man; and smote so furiously at my Companion, that he had near killed him; which I perceiving, drew forth my sword and slew him. Fair Duke, know this, I am a stranger in the City, and hither am I come to Combat with the green knight; as also to behold that beautiful Lady Feron, whom the whole World admires: Wherefore I think it a Law of Equity, for strangers to pass up and down in safety. Consider, I have shew'd you the cause of my coming. When the Duke heard Valentine say so; he said unto him, knight, right well hast thou answered me; and seeing my Cousin hath come by this, more by

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Pride, than Courage, I am right sorrowful, and so I pass it over, and pardon thy deed; but in that you urge, that your coming hither was only to Combat the green knight, come you into my Palace, and there you shall behold the Beauty for which you thus far adventure: Moreover, that you may see that you are not come alone, you shall behold fifteen knights to accompany you, and now accited for the love of the Lady Fezon, and to try their valour against the said green knight their Enemy. Go, I say, to my Palace, salute my Daughter, as my Custom is to Strangers, before they adventure their Persons in Battel with the green knight; and having presented your selves before her in the sign of Love, you shall receive from her a King of Gold. Sir, quoth Valentine, I shall be ready to do all rites & customs; and besides, I will obey you in all things whatsoever it shall please you to command.

This conference ended, the Duke went into the Castle, accompanied with Valentine and Orson; having entered the Hall, where the Knights were assembled, Valentine beheld the Lady sitting amongst them, and, making his way unto her, with all duty and reverence, at last he saluted her thus: Lady, you whose beauty and fame is spread thro' the World, the Gods preserve thee from the Green Knight, who I dare boldly avouch is not worthy to touch your super-excellent Lips. Moreover, dear Lady, may it please you to understand, that Pepin, the mighty King of France, hath sent me hither to present unto you the most Noble Man that liveth on the Earth; wherefore Lady behold him well, for he feareth no Man, nor any weapon, albeit he cannot speak: Wherefore I assure you, that the Green Knight is not able to withstand his mighty force, nor make any resistance against him. Sir, quoth the Lady, I yield unto the King of France thanks; as also to you that have taken such pains to present such a one before me. But say, wherefore is this worthy Champion no better Cloathed? For methinks he is of an excellent Person, well formed, strait, and of a hardy countenance; and if he were washed and bathed, his flesh would be both white and soft. Lady, saith Valentine, he never wore Garment till very lately, and then I caused this Jacket to be made; moreover, I assure you, that when he came first into Paris, he came a Naked Man, and his flesh was so hard, that he neither feared wind nor cold. While he was speaking these words, Fezon beheld him very wisely, for she was in love with him. But Valentine again thus speak, Lady for my self I must say something also, therefore, know this, that only for the love of you I have ventured in this Climate, to see if Fortune will so much favour me, that I may bear you away from all Comers, by force of Arms; and yet, fair Lady, one thing

thing more I have to utter unto you, which is, That I have made an oath unto my self, that I will never return again into France, till I have proved my fortune with the Green Knight, and with him do I intend to cope before I part hence; and either deliver him over into your hands as conquered, or suffer death, as many before me have. Alas, Knight, said the Lady, put not your self in danger for my sake, for methinks it is a folly in any Man, to endanger himself for the good of another. Again, there be many valiant Knights have miscarried in seeking my love, and I the unhappiest living, to see these unfortunate days. Lady, quoth he, what I have vowed, I mean to accomplish. Why then fair Knight, God be thy speed; and therewithal drew forth two Rings of Gold, giving Valentine the one, and Orson the other. Also they sat down at the Table amongst the other Knights, and were welcomed with great feastings. Being set at the Table, Fezon still fixed her eye on Orson, and Orson upon her, as it were interchangeably glancing love-looks one to another, with exceeding gracious aspects. Now in the midst of all their feastings, the Green Knight, as his custom was, came thundring at the Gates, only to have a sight of the beauteous Lady Fezon, for you shall understand, that such were the conditions between him and the Duke, that every day it should be lawful for him to enter his Palace, to behold the Lady without contradiction. Being entered the Great hall, his manner was, to cry out with a loud voice, saying, Valiant Duke of Aquitain, have you yet any more Champions to fight with me for the love of this Lady? The Duke answered, yea, I have yet within my Palace sixteen valiant Knights that mean to try their Fortune upon thee, before they depart my Country. Then said the Green Knight, let me see them; and likewise the fair Lady Fezon. Enter, said the Duke, for thou hast free liberty. Therewithal the Green Knight entered the Hall, sternly beholding all the Knights one after another; at last, when he had gone thro' them all, he began to speak to them on this manner: Lords, eat and drink, and make merry, for to morrow will be your last; and know that it will fall out to your share to be hanged on the top of my Tree, as many before you have been served. Valentine well marking his high words, grew exceeding angry, and at last began to answer him: Proud Knight, these vaunts might well have lain smothered in thy breast; for I tell thee, this day is come hither a Knight that will hold thee tack, more than any that ever yet encountered thee; and whereas thou triumphantly hast conquered many, he it is shall banquish thee, and leave thy dead Corps a prey for Ravenous Beasts. Now Orson understood that Valentine spoke all this of him, and also knew this to be

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the Green Knight, by whom so many valiant Men had lost their Lives; in so much, that he saluted him with a fierce Aslage, and, whetting his Teeth, leapt from the Table, and taking the Green Knight by the middle, threw him upon his Neck, as if he had been a little Child, and having him at that advantage, espying a Wall, threw the Green Knight with such violence against the same, that all the Beholders thought he had broken his Neck, for he lay as dead; and so set him down at the Table, as before; and in a laughing Gesture made signs, that he would bear upon his Neck three such as the Green Knight. At this sudden action of Orson, all the Knights there assembled began to laugh, and coming one towards the other, said, Now is he come indeed, that shall be the overthrow of the Green Knight. But we cannot chuse but lament the woful chance that shall befall the Lady Fezon, for he cannot speak, and yet is worthy of all honour amongst the Most valiantest. The Lady on the other side, beholding his valour, was instantly overcome with the love of Orson, that only conquered her heart, and left all the rest hopeless of ever gaining the Garland at which they aimed. By this time the Green Knight was again recovered, and counting it a deed of courage, began thus to say, Lords, this Wild-man hath deceived my trust, for he came upon me unawares, without saying a word: But I think good to let you understand, that in the morning I shall be better provided; and to the end I may make him an example to all that ever went before, I will ordain for him a Gibet on purpose, higher and stronger than for any that have been vanquished; and thereon I will hang his beastly corpse for beasts and birds to make their Prey.

Chap. XIII. How Orson Encountered the Green Knight, and what followed thereof; also how Valentine attempted to fight with him, but could not overcome him.

Orson perceiving the Green Knight displeased, and to threaten him, began as fast to chatter, making signs that he would meet him on the morrow, and fight with him; and in token thereof; took off his Hood, and threw it on the Ground as his Cage: Which Valentine seeing, speak thus to the Green Knight: Sir, the Wild-man challengeth you, and in token thereof hath thrown down his Cage; whereof, if your stomach serve, I advise you to take it up. Hereat the Green Knight fretted so exceedingly, that he replied never a word. Duke Savary being present, said unto him, Sir Knight, I well perceive that the battel will grow strong between the Wild-man and you; and I think he will hold you tough play: Wherefore

fore if you chance to conquer him, you may well report of your Valour
 throughout the World, for he hath tryed some part of his Courage already ;
 and in vanquishing him, you need not stand in fear of any. The Green
 Knight hereat more and more enraged, swore by Mahomet, That e'er
 the morrow's Sun was set, he would try the utmost of his strength, for he
 should never return again from the field, but he hanged a great deal higher
 than any of the rest : And with these words left the Castle, and betook him
 to his Pavillion. He being departed, the rest of the Knights still remain-
 ed with the Lady Fezon, making great Joy, and saying one to another,
 that the day was come, that the Green Knight should meet with his Match.
 On the other side, Fame had so spread abroad the worthy Act of Orson, the
 Savage, upon the green knight, that multitudes of People came to see &
 behold him ; insomuch that the Duke commanded the Gates to be shut.
 Orson, perceiving the People so abundantly to approach, and hearing the
 noise, leapt up into a window to behold them, so that they willing to see
 him, and he desirous to see them, at Night they all departed : and Supper
 ended, they passed the rest of the Night in merriments, and so to bed. Va-
 lentine being brought to his Chamber, went to bed, making signs to Orson
 to lye down by him ; but he not regarded his kindness, laid him down up-
 on the ground, according to his wonted use, and so passed away that
 Night. Morning being come, Valentine and Orson went into the Hall,
 where they found the fair Lady Fezon, accompanied with the other
 Knights, holding a dispute among themselves who should first fight with
 the Green Knight. At last stood up a worthy Knight of France, called
 Galeram, and said, Lords, so you be pleased, I am the Man intend the
 first tryal ; to this they agreed, and presently they armed him. Being ar-
 med, he came to the Lady, taking his leave in all Joy ; and she to requite
 his kindness, gave him free leave, wishing the Gods to preserve and keep
 him in all danger, so that he may return as Conqueror. The Knight
 most humbly thanked her, and so took Horse, and hasten'd him towards the
 Tent of the Green Knight. The Green Knight perceiving from far his
 approach, set Spurs to his Horse, and Encountered the famous Galeram
 so fiercely, that he smote him off his Horse to the Earth. the Green knight
 seeing him on the ground, suddenly lighted from his Horse, and took off
 the Helm from his head, Galeram fearing nothing but present death, yield-
 ed, but all in vain, for without pity, he first despoiled him of his arms, and
 after hanged him on a Tree, as he had done the rest before. Orson per-
 ceiving that Galeram was put to Death, made signs with his hands that
 he would fight with him presently, not letting him have any respite ;

but Valentine answered him again by signs, that he should withdraw himself for a while; for he would first go try his own strength on him: Hereupon he put himself in Arms, and took his way towards the beauteous Lady, to take his leave, as it becometh him; being come before her, she grew wonderful sorrowful, and yet at last she spake unto him on this manner: Alas, fair Knight, what madness is this in you, to adventure your self for the love of such an unfortunate Lady as I? Well, if thou wilt needs run into danger, go on; but I will invoke the Gods to aid and assist thee against thine and mine Enemy, and so farewell. Leave thus taken, Valentine mounted, to take his way toward the Green knight. As he was ready to put forth, he met with a worthy Knight, who was likewise Enamoured with the Lady, and thus began to say to him, Sir, have a little patience, I entreat you, and suffer me to go first. Friend, said Valentine, I freely grant your desire, go and return with Victory. This Knight's Name was Tyris, born in Savoy, a Man of great birth and living, but Riotously had run through his Means, leaving himself little, save only his Horse & Arms: Having thus obtained leave of Valentine, he also took leave of the Lords there Assembled, and so went to the Tent of the Green knight; the Green knight perceiving Tyris to Approach, leapt out of his Pavillion to welcome him. Tyris seeing him, said, Sir, presently Mount and Defend thy self, for I breath out Defiance against thee. The Green knight hearing him say so, called for his Horse, which was presently brought unto him; and putting his foot into the Stirrup, suddenly leaped himself in the Saddle, and betook him to his spear and shield, preparing to take their Course at each other; but at the first Encounter, the green knight ran so furiously, that he smote Tyris quite through the Body, so that he fell down Dead; which he perceiving, put a Cord about his Neck, and hang'd him up amongst the rest.

Valentine hearing of the Death of Tyris, was wonderful sorrowful, yet taking Courage, he recommended himself to the Gods: having thus done, he put spurs to his Horse, and took his way speedily towards the Tent: When the Green knight espied him, he was more fearful of him, than of all the rest; wherefore he called unto him, saying, Knight, give Ear unto this I now shall say, lest thou ponder Treachery: There shalt thou find hanging a Green shield, fetch it hither to me, and I will reward thee liberally. Sir, said Valentine, you have Servants enough of your own, send them, for by me it shall never be fetched. By my Law, quoth the green knight, you shall either bring me the shield, or else know this, you shall never Conquer me. When Valentine had well considered these words he speak, as touching the
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fetching of the Shield, he valiantly Rode towards the Tree, but he lost his labour, for he could not have it, whereat he was sorrowful, and returning unto the Green knight, in an angry mood, said, Go fetch thy shield thy self, for I cannot have it; wherefore accursed be that Magician that so fastened it; and an evil end betide him that sent me thither to fetch it. Friend, quoth he, shall I tell thee wherefore I sent thee? It was, for that this shield was given unto me by a Faery, and therein remaineth such Vertue, that no Man, be he never so strong, can take it from the place where it is fastned, save only he alone, by whom I shall be overcome; and for the doubt I stood in of thee, therefore I sent thee thither, now my doubt is satisfied; and therefore I advise thee to return to the place from whence thou camest, and save thy self, for seeing thee to be a Knight, I am forced to pity thee, and take no pleasure in thy Death, from which thou canst not escape, if thou fightest with me. Further, to the end thou shouldst not think I uttered these words to abuse thy patience, know this: That there is none living that can vanquish me, except first, he be the Son of a King, and next, such a one as never Sucked the breast of any Woman; now if thou beest such a one, thou may'st overcome me, if not, thou dost but shorten thy own days by an untimely Death. At these words Valentine took little pleasure, knowing that by this Relation he could not be that Man; but seeing that he was come to that enterprise, he would not return till he had assayed his strength against him; & therefore with a loud voice he speak thus, valiant and Redoubted Knight, I well understand I'm not the Man, by whom you shall be Conquered; yet whosoever I am, I'll not depart hence till I have fought with you. By the Gods, quoth the green knight, then thou hast some secret Treason to Work against me, that thus thou runneth upon thy Death wilfully: But e'er I part with thee, I'll make thee know the price of this thy Rashness. And therewithal leapt upon his Horse, bidding one of his Servants bring him a Box of precious Balm; the vertue of it was such, that what Wound soever he received, tho never so Mortal, it had power instantly to heal up the Breach. After he had received it, he suddenly put Spurs to his Horse, and couching his Spear in his Rest, both ran their Course so furiously, that their Spears brake in many places; and they suddenly bending themselves to the next Course, most valiantly drew out their Swords; whereat Valentine behaved himself so Dimbly that he gave the green knight so full a stroke, that he Cut him thro' his Armour, insomuch that the Blood Issued out in abundance. He feeling himself Wounded, he with a blow struck away a great piece of Valentine's thigh, and having thus Wounded him, said, you may see I can wield a Sword as well as you: I told you, that you would fall

fall under my hand; and anon I shall be fain to hang your dead Corpse on a tree, as I have done the rest as came before you. Pagan, Valentine, haunt not thy self over-much, for as yet I'm not conquered; therefore defend thy self; and there-with he gave him such a blow, that he smote away a quarter of his shield; and the Green knight, at the same encounter, brake his sword upon the helm of Valentine, felling him from his horse: Valentine being always valiant, suddenly recovered. The Pagan seeing him rise, drew a sharp pointed knife, and threw it at him; but he seeing it come, started aside, so that it missed him. The Green knight being thus unarmed, turned about his horse, thinking to have recovered them again; but Valentine being on the ground, and seeing fit opportunity, cut off his horses feet, so that they came both tumbling to the earth: being on the earth: he suddenly arose, and then they were both together (by the strength of their arms) holding each other: But in short, the bickering was so fierce, that they were both sore wounded: The Pagan quickly healed his with the balm before spoken of.

This fight continued so long, that the day began to shut in, and both grew weary: The Green knight was vexed that he could not overcome him, and tho' he were even spent, yet he proudly bare it out, saying, Knight, give over, for I perceive thy weariness, and the sun declineth, therefore it would be little honour for me to conquer thee: So, return again to Aquitain, and rest there this night, and report, that there never encountered me so valiant a Knight as thou art. But meet me to morrow, and before thy coming, take leave of thy friends, for thou shalt never return. Valentine accepted his offer, and was glad thereof; so mounting his horse, he returned to the City. When Duke Savary, and his Lords saw him, they were joyful, and received him in great honour; amongst the rest there assembled, was Orson, who ran and caught him in his arms, and kissed him: Being come into the Palace, the Duke demanded what tidings from the Green knight? Sir, saith Valentine, he resteth in his Pavilion, and I think he is of that strength and courage, that there is not a Man living able to vanquish him. Valentine, quoth the Duke, you have escaped well, for never did any return, but all have perished; wherefore you have proved your self a valiant knight: Gracious Duke, said he, of my conquest, I can make but small boast, but to morrow there is appointed a new tryal, and the victory will light upon whom the gods please to favour. Having ended the conference with the Duke, Valentine was unarmed, and conducted to the Chamber of the Lady Fezon. The Lady was right joyful to see him return with life: By this time supper drew on, and the Duke taking

his place at the Table, caused Valentine to be set on his left hand; for the Duke did honour him in the highest degree; supper ended, Valentine withdrew himself to his private chamber, and the Green Knight rested in his Pavilion, where we will leave him, and speak of Valentine, who being in his chamber, made many complaints.

Chap. XIV. How Valentine took Advice, and sent Orson on the morrow, to fight the Green Knight; and how Orson Overcame him.

Valentine having appointed the morrow to fight with the Green Knight, began to be troubled as he lay in bed, still thinking on what hapned the day before. At last, when he had ruminated all his imaginations, he began to resolve on this: I am not, neither can be that King's Son that should overcome the Green Knight; for I can neither remove the shield he sent me for, neither was nourished without the breast of Woman. Again, I'm very doubtful of the combat, and therefore stand wabering, whereupon to rely. At last he began thus to think: What if Orson should be armed in my stead, and thereby try the worst of Fortunes wrack: Why? it shall be so. The break of the day appearing, he arose, and coming to Orson, he told him, by signs, that he should put on his Armour, take his horse, and make towards the Green knight's Pavilion, to fight with him. Orson understanding his intent, leaped and danced up and down joyfully; making signs, that the Knight should never escape; denying his horse and arms, desiring only a club, such a one as he was accustomed to; and shaking his head, made signs that he would have no other armour. Valentine seeing this, gave him to understand, that he must put on the same armour, and ride on the same horse, for that the Knight should not know but that it was Valentine that came against him. Orson understanding the subtilty intended, agreed to it; and being thus armed, contrary to his custom, he seemed personable, and made many signs that he would overcome the Green knight e'er noon, without mercy or pitty; and in these signs he was so earnest, that he caused great laughter. Orson thus prepared, took his leave of the Duke, embraced Valentine, and made him signs to stand in fear of nothing; for before he returned, he would bring the Green Knight either alive or dead. But before he took horse, he went and took leave of the Lady Fezon; and spying her, would have run and killed her; for by signs he gave her to understand, that for the love of her he would fight with the Pagan Knight. The Lady, with a smile, made sign, that she loved him well; wishing him to bear himself valiantly; and at his return she would grant him

him lobe: Thus having taken his leave, he betook him to his horse, and being gone from the Palace, there was nothing so much talked of, as the Wild-man's combat with the Green Knight, whereat was much wonder: It was not long before Orson came to the Pavilion of the Green Knight, and smote the top thereof with his spear, signifying defiance. The Green Knight taking this rustick salutation in great scorn, swore by Mahomet, That he would better his pride e'er the evening; and there-withal mounted on his steed, and couching his spear, he entered the field. Orson seeing him in a readiness, seemed to give back, as half afraid, and presently having gathered more courage, they encountred with such force, that both horses and men fell to the earth: Being both down, they lightly recovered, drew their swords, and laid one at the other fiercely. The Green knight being fired with anger, smote Orson such a blow, that he cut the circle of gold on his helm, and smote a piece of his shield quite off, and wounded him deeply, that with the outrage of the stroke, his sword fell



out of his hand. Orson seeing the blood run down, was far more fierce, rousing his eyes, and shaking his head; at last he took the Giant such a pat on his head; that he entered the flesh, and bare apart thereof afore him, and

and his sword sliding off his head; took him on the Arm so powerfully, that the blood followed in abundance: The Green Knight having his Balm, feared no wounds, which made Orson think it was in vain any longer to use his sword, although he could heal himself so quickly: Upon this Orson threw away all his armor and weapons, and suddenly run upon him, and caught him fast by the arms, and cast him on the ground, took off his helm, and held him so down, that the Green knight did yield to his mercy; Orson not regarding his submission, would have taken away his life, if Valentine had not come to his rescue, by riding post, to see the end of the combat: Being come, he made signs to Orson, that he should not kill him, which Orson obeyed: And at last Valentine began thus to speak to the Green knight, saying, Proud Knight, you see that you are in the hands of your Enemy, wherefore I think it fit that you suffer present death, for look how you have done to the vanquished knights, by hanging them on yonder tree; so likewise you your self should be hanged on the highest branch: Alas, quoth he, You seem to be a man of pity, furnished with courtesie; therefore my request unto you is, to spare my life: No, quoth Valentine, that I shall not, except upon condition: First, That you renounce your Paganism: Secondly, Go with me into France, and tell king Pepin, that by Valentine and Orson you were overcome in single combat: To all these conditions I willingly agree, and thereunto I take my oath, to perform whatsoever you have already spoken.

Then Valentine made signs unto Orson, that he should rise, which he readily obeyed, but so, that he left nothing about him to make any further resistance. Being upon his feet, he spake thus to Valentine, Sir it was you that combated against me yesterday, therefore you, and none but you, did I expect this day also; but I see I am conquered by the Man, that in the Duke's Palace threw me on the ground. True, quoth Valentine, the very same. Why then, quoth the Green Knight, I shall reveal unto thee one secret more, and I beseech thee grant unto me my request, send this knight, that hath conquered me, unto yonder tree, and if he bring away with him the shield there fastned, then I'm well assured he is the man that should conquer me. Whereupon Valentine made a sign to Orson, to fetch away that shield, who did as he appointed him; and coming near the tree, he stretched forth his arm to take it down, and suddenly it leaped into his hand, and so he brought it with him to the Green Knight. When he saw Orson have the shield, his heart smote against his sides, and throwing himself at his feet, would have killed them; but Orson receiving signs from Valentine to the contrary, would not suffer him, but took him by the arms,

and lifted him up. Being upon his feet, he spake thus; Alas, I of all others owe unto you all my service, and all reverence; for now I'm assured you are both a hardy and a valiant Knight, and amongst all other I confess that by Conquering me, you have won unto your self everlasting Fame. Moreover, this assure your self, that he that Conquers me, can be no less than a Son unto a King and Queen, and must be such a one as never Sucked the breast of any Woman: And that this shall appear to be Truth, I shall further prove it by my Sister Clerimond, for she hath a Head of Brass that telleth her the Adventures and Fortunes that to her and all her Generation shall befall; likewise, this Head shall continue speaking until such time as the most worthiest Knight of the World enter into the Chamber where it now standeth; and he being once entred, the said Head shall lose his vertue; and is the only Man to have my Sister Clerimond to Wife; wherefore fair Knight, these things thus fallen out as you see, I greatly desire you would wed my Sister, as the most hardiest and most renowned Knight in the whole World.

Chap. XV. How Orson having Conquer'd the Green Knight, Valentine caused him to be Christened, and sending him to King Pepin, had knowledge of his Father and Mother by means of the Green Knight. How the same Night that Orson was made sure to the Lady Fezon, an Angel appeared unto Valentine, and of the Charge she gave unto him.

THE Green Knight having made this motion of the Marriage of his Sister, gave unto Valentine a Ring of Gold, upon condition that he would carry that Ring unto her: Which Ring Valentine accepted; and the Green knight yielded himself a Prisoner, and is now going towards France, to accomplish that Oath that he before had given him. Valentine having received this Ring, never rested till he had seen the Lady so commended to him. After this, the Green Knight, by consent, was Crowned King of the Green Mountain, and there held great state: Presently upon his League of Friendship Concluded, he gave Command throughout all his Host, that every Man should depart away from the Confines of Aquitain, and return into their Countries without doing any further Damage to Duke Savary's Country. The Pagan Army thus dismissed, Valentine and Orson took and led him as a Prisoner into the City of Aquitain, whereat was no little Joy; and the Duke with all his Lords, received him with great Triumph into the City. The Green Knight being thus brought as a Prisoner to the Duke, began to say on this manner; My Lords, you owe much Honour

honour unto the Knight that hath Conquered me. And further, I giue you to understand for certain, that he can be no less than Son to a King; and also, that he neuer Sucked womans Breast, for if he had, he could not have been my Conqueror, for so it was euer said by the Brazen-head that standeth in the Chamber of my Sister Clerimond. Quoth the Duke, Well may this carry some likelyhood of Truth, for he hath boyn himself very Valiant against you; wherefore I think it my part to honour him with my utmost endeavours. By this time is the worthy Train entered the Duke's Palace, whether the Duke commanded his Daughters presence; and then he said unto her, Daughter, behold here the Green Knight, that hath for your love made spoil of my Country, and I was no way able to Repel him back, but only by this Valiant Knight that Valentine hath brought from the Court of King Pepin, who hath freed us of our Fears: Wherefore this is my desire, That as he hath Conquered your and my Enemy, so he may also Conquer your love, whereunto I willingly agree. The Duke having thus said, the Lady answered for her self in this manner: My Lord and Father, you know I am your Daughter, therefore there is no Reason I should resist, but do submit to your Dispose; for if I should do otherwise, it were great disobedience. And again, my Lord, your promise is already past, that whosoever could Vanquish the Pagan Knight, should for his labour receive me for his Wife. Now, my Lord, the day of my Deliberance is come, so then (according to your promise) you must give him to me, and I receive him as my lawful Spouse; otherwise I shall make void the Edict before gone throughout the World, and you thought false in your Promises. Daughter, quoth the Duke, you have spoken right Graciously, and your answer pleaseth me highly, and not only me, but all that are about us; wherefore it were not amiss to know of the Conqueror, whether he will have you: If he agree unto this Match, I shall give him in Dowry half my Country. Hereupon Valentine demanded of Orson whether he would have the Lady Fezon to Wife? Who made signs, That he would never have any other. Then caused the Duke to be brought before him a Priest, who then contracted them; and so their time was passed with many disports. These things thus ended, Orson made signs unto the Lady, that he would never lye with her till he had gotten the use of his Tongue, and that his Companion, Valentine, had Conquer'd the love of the Lady Clerimond. Of which you shall hear more hereafter.

The day being past with great Banquetings and Solemnity, wherein Fezon was assured unto Orson, the Night approached, and every Man betook him

to his Rest: Amongst the rest, Valentine and Orson were Lodged most Richly; and in the dead time of the night Valentine had the Apparition of an Angel appeared unto him, saying, 'Valentine, know this, that in the



“ morning thou speedily depart the Land, and take along with thee Orson, by
 “ whom the Green Knight hath been vanquished, and without further delay,
 “ get thee into the Castle of Ferragus, there you shall find the Lady Clerimond,
 “ by whom thou shalt understand of whence thou art descended. This strange
 Vision drove him into a thousand fears, and in great melancholly passed he
 away the night: The day being broken, he caused Orson to arise, and be-
 ing ready, they hasted unto the Duke's Palace, where he found his Barons
 attending for him, and amongst the rest, the Green knight; not long after
 entered the Duke; being entered, the Green knight took an occasion to give
 him the time of the day, and began to speak unto him on this manner: Most
 renowned Duke, I freely confess my self vanquished, and withal, Re-
 nounce all right unto your Daughter, concluding an everlasting peace with
 you, upon condition that you cause me to be Baptized. Knight, said the
 Duke, well have you said, I grant your request. When the Priest was come
 that should Baptize him, Valentine began thus to say: Lords and Gentle-
 men,

men, May it please the Valiant Duke to grant me one Boon, which is this, That the Name of this Knight be call'd Pepin; it is the Name of the most mighty King of France, that nourished and fostered me even from my Cradle. The Duke consented unto Valentine's demand, so he was called Pepin; After the Baptism, the Duke made a motion to Valentine and Orson for to wed his Daughter, the beautiful Lady Fezon; but Valentine not allowing thereof, made this excuse, that both he and Orson had vowed to go to Jerusalem, e'er they did attempt any other Action, after the conquest of the Green knight. The Duke hearing this excuse, gave them leave, upon this condition, That Orson should take an Oath to return again into Aquitain, at his coming back from thence, to this they both agreed. The same hour also, the Green knight took leave of the Duke of Aquitain, and went his way into France, to keep his promised faith to King Pepin: Before his departure, Valentine asked him for the Ring that he had promised; who gave it unto him, saying, Whatsoever he be that beareth this about him, shall never stand in fear of drowning, nor be afraid of false accusation. Then Valentine took the Ring and put it on his finger; so Orson and he took leave, and departed the way toward the Lady Clerimond, to find out the Castle of Ferragus; and the Green knight likewise took leave for France. Much about this time Blandiman, 'Squire to the distressed Lady Bellissant, was arrived at King Pepin's Court, clad in the habit of a Pilgrim, and having saluted the King, he wondered at this his unlook'd for shape, and at last asked him from what Sepulchre he was come. Worthy King, said Blandiman, I am no Pilgrim, altho' I have taken that shape upon me, but only to come more safely unto you have I taken this habit: Wherefore know, that I am a Messenger sent from the high and mighty Lady your Sister, that by Treason and false Accusations hath been banished her Country by the Emperour Alexander, and at this time lieth in great sorrow of heart, only for that you have unjustly bent your heart against her, & sought no way to relieve her misery.

Chap. XVI. How king Pepin came to know that Valentine and Orson were his Nephews; and how the Green Knight submitted himself according to his Promise.

Blandiman having delivered his message, the King began to demand where his Sister was; Blandiman replied, I know right well where she is, but I have given her my word never to discover it to any: But worthy King, if you doubt her loyalty, I shall bring you a Man that will fight

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the Querrel, to probe her honest. Nay, said the King, I have seen enough thereof already, by the downfal of the Arch-priest; also I have made much means to hear of her, but cannot: And, that which most grieveeth me, is, that she was great with Child when she was banish'd; neither am I assured, whether she was delivered of that burden. My Lord, quoth Blandiman, know this for a truth, That my Lady laid her Great Belly in the Forrest of Orleance; and while she dispatched me to get her the help of a Woman: But e'er I could return, she was deliver'd of two Sons, the one of which was carryed away by a Bear into the Wood, she never wist whither; but she follow'd so long, till at last I found her in a Sound upon the Ground: I coming to her, took her up, and comforted her so well as I could, till being somewhat Recovered, in woeful sighs she unfolded the manner of the loss of her Child; and for the other, she had left it under a Tree. I hearing her say so, hasted to the Tree wherreas I left her, but being come thither, I could not find the other Child. And thus, worthy King, have I related the whole story of your Sister, and her two Infants. And other Tydings have I none, but this, I'm that Blandiman that you gave to attend her, when she Married the Emperoz. The King giving Ear unto this, said, Alas, Blandiman, thy words strikes me into a thousand fears: What should be become of my Sister? But seeing thou canst tell no more, tell me yet how long ago this is that thou hast told me. My Lord, quoth he, it was even that day you met me in the Forrest of Orleance, and I related to you the tydings of your Sisters Banishment. This struck the King into such admiration, that he began to recollect his wits, & then presently came into his mind the finding of Valentine, and how by him Orson was Conquered in the same Wood. Then he began to think on the story that Blandiman had told him, and whereby knew that these were the two Babes brought forth by his Sister; wherfore he sent for the Queen, and other Ladies, to let them understand what Blandiman had declared, saying, My Lords, I have long time flourish'd and brought up in my Court a poor Child, and now it doth plainly appear he is Son to an Emperoz, and my near Kinsman: Valentine, whom I found in the Forrest, brought forth there by my Sister Bellisant, in the time of her Exile; and Orson, who was likewise Vanquished by Valentine, to be his Brother, and both Sons to the Emperoz of greece.

At these Tydings all the Court was joyful, save only Haufray & Henry, who in outward shew seemed glad, but were in their hearts sorrowful, for above all other they desired the death of Valentine, that next him they might work their wills on their young Brother Charlemain, against whom they chiefly

chiefly opposed themselves, as hereafter will appear. But to return to Blandiman, who hearing the King speak so much of the Children, demanded of the King, if he knew in what Country they were. Why, said the King, one of these I have brought up in my Court, in such fashion, that he is become a valiant Knight, and by his valour hath Conquer'd his Brother, being a Wild-man, living in the Wood like a Beast, and one that did much damage to the Country there-about: Having Conquered him, brought him to Court, where having lived some small time, they both departed, and took their way towards Aquitain, to fight with a worthy Champion, called the green knight; and since their departure, I never heard what became of them. Sir, said Blandiman, according to the Tale you have told, I remember well, that near Aquitain I met two such, but I am troubled that I knew them not. So the King musing at these Accidents, caused Blandiman to be highly feasted, and held as a Companion amongst his other Lords.

Now it hapned, that on the same day the green knight arrived at Paris, as soon as he came into the presence of the King, he saluted him with great Reverence. The King seeing him in Armour, marvelled thereat, and demanded the cause of his so appearing, whom he was, and wherefore he came: The green knight replied again on this manner: Honourable King, know that I am descended from the Sarazens, both by Father and Mother; and true it is, that I am that knight, that for the love of the Lady Fezon, Daughter to the Duke of Aquitain, have for one whole year holden the Duke as my Vassal, and in my Subjection; and having him under me, I took a Truce with him for six Months, upon these conditions: That if within that time he found not forth a Knight that by force of arms should Conquer me, I was to have his fair Daughter Fezon to Wife. On the other side, If I were conquered, I should remove away my Siege, and depart out of his Territories, without doing him any further damage. So it is, that long I was fought withal, by divers valiant Knights of all Countries, yet there was not any that could overcome me, but endureth death, and there still hangeth upon a Tree: At last it so fell out, that there assailed me two worthy Knights, the one named Valentine, and the other Orson: Valentine fought with me one whole day, wherein he bore himself so bravely, that Night coming on, we were forced to give over, all wounded, tyred, and weary: The next Morning when the Battel should be again renewed, his fellow, Orson, armed in Valentine's armour, entered the field in most fierce and disdainful manner, offering me defiance; I scornning any Competitor, addrest out my self against him; but little
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my strength, for in the end he overcame me, and would have taken away my life, had not Valentine come in upon us, and Rescued me, up o these conditions, First, That I should forsake Mahomet. Secondly, That I should come unto you, and yeld my self at your command, and to stand to your Censure, either in Life or Death. Again, when I received Baptism, he caused me to be called Pepin, and so is my Name. The King habing heard all this long story from the Green Knight, made this answer, in the presence of all his Barons: Welcome to us, and of your company we are right Glad; lbe with us in our court, and be iocound, for I freely Grant you your life; and promise you further, That if you will tarry with us in our country, I will endow thee with many fair Lands and Possessions. The King shewing himself thus Gracious, demanded of him where these knights was, that had conquered him. Marry, quoth the Green Knight, I left them both at Aquitain, with the valiant Duke Savary, who holdeth them in great Respect as any that are Remaining in his court. Thus you may now perceiue, that by the words of Blandiman and the Green Knight, King Pepin had perfect Intelligence of his beautilous Sister, and his two valiant Pephews. After all these tydings hapned, King Pepin made a Solemn vow, That he would go himself in Person into greece, to tell the Emperoz of these Gladsome tydings, and to take Order to send abroad into all Lands to find her out.

Chap. XVII. How King Pepin departed from France towards Greece, to bear these Tydings; how he found Constantinople besieged by the Souldan of Egypt; how the Green knight Justed with two Sarazens & overcame them; of the battel that was fought, and the Armies entring the City.

King Pepin put himself into a readines to depart into greece, went forth, and befoze much time was spent, arrived at Rome, where the Pope Receiued him joyfully; but as he was sat at Dinner, news was brought him, That the Souldan of Egypt, with a mighty Army, had besieged Constantinople; whereupon resolving to go to the relief of it, he craved aid of the Pope, who readily Granted it, and Forces were immediately called in all the Territories of the Church, who chearfully assembled themselves under so couragious a General; and so king Pepin coming to Constantinople, he found the city round begirt, and the citizens in great fear of the Souldan's Army, betaking themselves to the city, keeping the same against all the force of the Pagans. The Emperoz was close confin'd in

in the City, by reason of the long continued Siege; but when he heard relief was come, he took courage, and the Pagans were much alarumed; but the Souldan with big words encouraged them, not only to subdue Constantinople but Rome it self, lessning and deriding the valout of the Christian Army. But King Pepin resolving to fight his way into the City, sent



letters to the Emperoz to make a vigorous Sally, at such time as he should give the onset, and so marched towards the Enemy. The Souldan, upon this, put his Men in order, to discover the number of his Enemies. The GreenKnight, who was advanced before the Christian Army, with the like intent on the other side, perceiving them coming by the side of the hill; and knowing them to be Enemies, addressed himself to the Encounter, and break his Launce against the foremost; then a dreadful combat began between them, and in fine killed one and put the other to flight. The King upon this good omen, charged the Souldans Battle with great fury, wherein Myllon Daugler slew the King of Aquile, and three others, e'er he gave over the field: This made the Souldan and his choicest Men come

up, and furiously set upon Daugler, who valiantly defended himself, till his horse wounded fell under him: and there had been slain, but that the Green Knight rescued and remounted him: Then great was the slaughter on both sides, for the Emperour issuing out with his Army, the Infidels were in a manner hemmed in; and King Pepin pressing on, cryed, Courage, Noble Brother, and you shall have News of your Lady Bellisant: This made him encourage his Men to the utmost, crying for Constantino-ple, which so heartned them, especially with his own and King Pepin's example, that they fought like Lyons. The Green knight and other Cham-pions made a terrible slaughter, so that the Sarazens began to fall in rout, and fly; but the King of Scavonia coming in with 50000 fresh Men, re-stored the battel, which continued bloody and doubtful; but King Pepin & the Emperour finding they were over-numbered, and the Enemy had fresh succours, thought fit to retire into the City, which they did, and there, be-ing close beset with a siege, endured extream famine, where we must have them to follow Valentine and Orson, who for the love of Clerimond, have adventured as you have already heard.

Chap. XVIII. How Valentine and Orson arrived at the strong Castle, wherein fair Clerimond was; and how, by the brazen-head, they had knowledge of their Parents.

After many days travel, at last Valentine and Orson lighted upon an Island, in which Island stood a Castle, strong and impregnable; the covering whereof was of shining metal, glittering in the Sun, that it drove Valentine into suspicion, that it was it, whereunto the Green Kt. had directed him to have a sight of the fair Lady Clerimond. At all ad-ventures he maketh way towards the Castle, and at last entered into this Island by one of the Ports thereof: Being entered, he demanded who was the owner of that Castle, which appeared so sumptuous to the eye? Answer was returned, That the Castle was in the keeping of the fair Lady Cleri-mond, Sister unto the Giant Ferragus, and builded by a mighty Man in substance, a Sarazen, the which Sarazen, amongst all other his excellent works done in this Castle, he caused one Chamber to be richly adorn'd, of which Chamber more shall be spoken of in its place.

Moreover, it was told unto Valentine, amongst other things, that in the Chamber stood an excellent Piller made by Art, upon the which stood a Head of Brass, composed, a long time before, by the Magomancy of a Fairy, the which Head was of such an excellent composition, that it gave
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answer to any thing that was demanded: Valentine hearing this strange Relation of the Castle, was right glad; for now he was verily perswaded that this must needs be the very Castle he had so long time sought, and wherein the green knight, told him he should find his Sister, so highly praised of all Nations for her excellent Beauty. Having gathered knowledge enough, he left questioning any further, and went on his way, accompanied with Orson, to see if he could get entrance into this Castle. By this time they were come to the Gates thereof, where thinking to enter, they were resisted by Ten sturdy Knights, that kept the Gates night and day.

When they saw Valentine and Orson make proffer to enter, they said unto them: Lords, or whatever you be, with-draw your selves back, for into this Castle entereth none, of what birth soever, without the leave and license of a Maiden, to whom we (as Guard, do appertain. Why? (quoth Valentine) go tell her, and ask whether it be her pleasure we enter or not.



Hereupon one of them entered the Chamber where fair Clerimond was, and kneeling before her said: Lady, at your Gate standeth two Gallants that would enter your Castle; they seem fierce and courageous, full of high spi-

rit, and men far disagreeing from the Laws and Religion of our Country: Now, fair Lady, say, shall they have entrance? Descend (quoth the Lady) while I go forth into a Window, to take a view of them, and let the Gates be surely kept, for I mean to question with them my self. The Porter did as she commanded. Then Clerimond, that was well language, leaned out of the Window, upon a Cushion covered with Gold, and said unto Valentine: What are you, that dare offer to enter my Castle without leave? Lady (quoth Valentine, with an undaunted courage) I am a Knight that travelleth this way, and would gladly speak with that head of Brass, that remaineth within this Castle, if it be your pleasure, because (as I understand) it resolbeth doubts. Knight (quoth the Lady) upon these terms you may not enter; but if you can bring me any certain signs from one of my Brethren, either from R. Ferragus, or the Green knight, Lord of Tartary, then you may freely enter this Castle, and by no other means: Yet you may enter, that is, by the Seneschal of this place, with whom you may run six courses with your Spear, to try your Valour; wherefore now be advised, either fetch me some certain tokens from one of my Brothers, or try your Fortune in single Combat, as I have told you. Lady, quoth Valentine, against your Seneschal I dare adventure, for I had rather win my entrance by pondrous blows, than by intreats and fawning speeches. This choice chose Valentine, rather than to bewray the Ring which he had brought along with him, given him by the Green Knight, to present to his Sister Clerimond. The Lady seeing his resolute hardiness, suddenly fell in love with him, and presently went into the chamber where the Head of Brass stood, and said unto it: What is that Knight of Courage, that would so gladly enter this Castle? Lady, quoth the Head, of that Knight you shall know nothing, until such time as you have brought him before me. Clerimond, at this answer, seemed very sorrowful, for she was greatly in love with Valentine.

Chap. XIX. How (when as Valentine was before the Castle, talking with the Guard) Clerimond bewailed the love of Valentine: And how he Justed for the Entrance, and over-came the Seneschal.

Clerimond pondying in her mind the words of Valentine, being overcome with affection, said on this manner: Ah! Valentine is valorous and beautiful; and if I have power over the Head of Brass, I shall never take other Husband than this Knight. Hereupon she sent for the Seneschal, and told him that this Knight would enter the Castle. The Seneschal

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hereat enraged, began thus: Lady, if he be so hardy to attempt it, I shall quickly make him know that he cometh too late to gain your love.

Seneschal (said the Lady) since it must be so, go arm you presently, and so he departed to put himself in Arms; being Armed, he mounted his horse, couched his Spear in his rest, and withal issued out of the Gate in readiness. The Lady got into a window to behold the combat. When Valentine saw the Seneschal to come toward him, he couched his spear, and put spurs to his horse, they met so fiercely, that their spears break in pieces: presently having a new supply, suddenly they met so fiercely, that they fell to the ground horse and man; but Valentine's horse got up with his Master; Valentine being thus saved by his horse, said unto the Seneschal: Rise up, and newly mount your self, for there is no honour in conquering an Enemy at Advantage. Whereupon the Seneschal was freshly



mounted, and new Spears given them again: then took they a fresh career, and therewithal Valentine so encountred him about the Head, that he boze away his Helm, and threw both horse and man down upon the Earth: The Seneschal finding himself in danger, said thus unto Valentine, Knight, I know not from whence you are, nor of what Parentage, but never in

my life found I a man of thy valour, wherefore I yield, and withal give thee leave to enter this Castle at thy pleasure (only upon this condition, that you speak not unto the Lady Clerimond without my leave.) Quoth Valentine, thou hast requested that which I cannot grant, and know, it was for her love I came hither, and though I never saw her before, yet are my thoughts on fire. Therefore from hence I will never part till I have spoken with her, and also with the Brazen-head: The Lady all this while standing at the Window, wondered what conference passed between these two Champions, and at last thus said unto one of her Maidens: See how indiscreet this Seneschal is, to fight with such a valiant Knight, who long since might have taken away his life. When Valentine saw the great pride of the Seneschal, and that he stood it out with him, being his Prisoner, he presently run against him another course, and therewithal gave him so deadly a stroke, that he ran him quite thro' the body, so that he fell off his horse stark dead; at which the Lady Clerimond was exceeding joyful, commanding them to set open the Gates, and that Valentine should be brought up unto her in the great Hall: When that the Lady beheld Valentine well, she came towards him, and said unto him on this manner: Knight, you are most welcome, for I never saw a more valiant and courageous man all the days of my life: Enter my castle, for it appeareth by your valour and chivalry, that you are descended from the Loyns of some Royal Stock: Lady, know this for a certainty, my name is Valentine, a poor Adventurer, for neither my self, nor my companion, ever knew from what Stock we descended: He was nourished by a beast in the Forrest, and lived there like a Wild-man, till as I conquered him by my sword, besides, he never spake in his life more than you see at this instant: Wherefore Lady, thus far have I travelled to get knowledge of my Parents, but chiefly to gain the Love of you, being so fair a Lady.

Chap. XX. How Valentine shewed Clerimond her brothers Ring, which the Green Knight gave him, and how he questioned with the brazen-head, which told him from whence he was descended.

Valentine having purchased free entrance, by overcoming the Seneschal, at last he shewed the Ring that the Green knight had given him, and smiling, delivered it to the Lady, who gladly received the Token, saying, Fair Knight, had you shewed this Ring when you first craved access into this castle, you had never endured the danger that you have now escaped: But sith it hath pleased you to try your valour, I cannot better commend you,

you, than to admire your brave courageous heart. Whilst Valentine was also plac'd just against her, in whom she took her greatest Felicity, as he in her: Dinner being ended, Clerimond arose from the Table, and taking Valentine by the hand, said thus unto him: Sir, well have you purchased your welcome, deserving to enter into my priviest chamber, and so you shall, even that chamber wherein the Razer-head standeth, the which head shall declare all that you can desire, and make no doubt but it will tell you most joyful tydings: Wherefore, both you and your companion come along with me, for I gladly long to hear, as you desire to be heard. Hereat Valentine grew exceedingly Joyful: First, for that he shall now understand that which he now desired to know: Secondly, that the Lady used him so Graciously. Thus taking their way out of the Hall, she brought him into that chamber: Being come unto the dooz thereof, and thinking nothing, they found the chamber dooz Guarded on this manner: On the one side a grim, fearful, and ugly shapen Villain, strong and crooked, armed with a club of Iron upon his Neck, which offered to make Resistance: On the othe side of the chamber dooz stood a most fierce Lyon, these two continually kept the dooz, that none could enter in without the Ladys leave, or else fight with the Villain and Lyon: Valentine perceiving these two Watchmen to make Resistance, demanded of the fair Lady Clerimond the meaning thereof, who answered, These two you see here are to keep the dooz, that none may enter without fighting with them, and that divers have perished in their Presumption: And again, the Lyon is of such fierceness, that he will suffer none to pass, unless the Son of a King, and to such she shewes her self very loving.

Lady (quoth Valentine) happen what will, yet I mean to try my fortune with the Lyon, and by main strength caught him about the body, whereat the Lyon forsook him, and let him pass. Orson likewise assailed the Villain, and e'er he could be ready to lift up his club of Iron, he took him by the middle so strongly, that he threw him against the Wall; he took away his club, and gave him such a blow that he tumbled on the Ground, & had it not been for the Lady Clerimond, he had slain him in that place. Being both thus vanquished, the Gate was opened, and they entered the chamber, wherein they might see all the World could afford, as Gold, Azure, Rubies, Sapphires, with a great multitude of precious Stones: Within this chamber was four Pillars of Jasper, marvellous rich, of which two of them are Yellow as most fine Gold, and a third Green, more Green than Grass, a fourth more Red than a Flame of Fire; between these Pillars was a precious Stone, called an Amery, more Rich than the heart of Man
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my life found I a man of thy valour, therefore I yield, and withal give thee leave to enter this Castle at thy pleasure (only upon this condition, that you speak not unto the Lady Clerimond without my leave.) Quoth Valentine, thou hast requested that which I cannot grant, and know, it was for her love I came hither, and though I never saw her before, yet are my thoughts on fire. Therefore from hence I will never part till I have spoken with her, and also with the Brazen-head: The Lady all this while standing at the Window, wondered what conference passed between these two Champions, and at last thus said unto one of her Maidens: See how indiscreet this Seneschal is, to fight with such a valiant Knight, who long since might have taken away his life. When Valentine saw the great pride of the Seneschal, and that he stood it out with him, being his Prisoner, he presently run against him another course, and therewithal gave him so deadly a stroke, that he ran him quite thro' the body, so that he fell off his horse stark dead; at which the Lady Clerimond was exceeding joyful, commanding them to set open the Gates, and that Valentine should be brought up unto her in the great Hall: When that the Lady beheld Valentine well, she came towards him, and said unto him on this manner: Knight, you are most welcome, for I never saw a more valiant and courageous man all the days of my life: Enter my castle, for it appeareth by your valour and chivalry, that you are descended from the Loyns of some Royal Stock: Lady, know this for a certainty, my name is Valentine, a poor Adventurer, for neither my self, nor my companion, ever knew from what Stock we descended: He was nourished by a beast in the Forrest, and lived there like a Wild-man, till as I conquered him by my sword, besides, he never spake in his life more than you see at this instant: Therefore Lady, thus far have I travelled to get knowledge of my Parents, but chiefly to gain the Love of you, being so fair a Lady.

Chap. XX. How Valentine shewed Clerimond her brothers Ring, which the Green Knight gave him, and how he questioned with the brazen-head, which told him from whence he was descended.

Valentine having purchased free entrance, by overcoming the Seneschal, at last he shewed the Ring that the Green knight had given him, and smiling, delivered it to the Lady, who gladly received the Token, saying, Fair Knight, had you shewed this Ring when you first craved access into this castle, you had never endured the danger that you have now escaped: But sith it hath pleased you to try your valour, I cannot better commend you,

you, than to admire your brave courageous heart. Whilst Valentine was also plac'd just against her, in whom she took her greatest Felicity, as he in her: Dinner being ended, Clerimond arose from the Table, and taking Valentine by the hand, said thus unto him: Sir, well have you purchased your welcome, deserving to enter into my priiest chamber, and so you shall, even that chamber wherein the Brazen-head standeth, the which head shall declare all that you can desire, and make no doubt but it will tell you most joyful tydings: Wherefore, both you and your companion come along with me, for I gladly long to hear, as you desire to be heard. Hereat Valentine grew exceedingly Joyful: First, for that he shall now understand that which he now desired to know: Secondly, that the Lady used him so Graciously. Thus taking their way out of the Hall, she brought him into that chamber: Being come unto the dooz thereof, and thinking nothing, they found the chamber dooz Guarded on this manner: On the one side a grim, fearful, and ugly shapen Willian, strong and crooked, armed with a club of Iron upon his Neck, which offered to make Resistance: On the othe side of the chamber dooz stood a most fierce Lyon, these two continually kept the dooz, that none could enter in without the Ladys leave, or else fight with the Willian and Lyon: Valentine perceiuing these two Watchmen to make Resistance, demanded of the fair Lady Clerimond the meaning thereof, who answered, These two you see here are to keep the dooz, that none may enter without fighting with them, and that divers have perished in their Presumption: And again, the Lyon is of such fierceness, that he will suffer none to pass, unless the Son of a King, and to such she shewes her self very loving.

Lady (quoth Valentine) happen what will, yet I mean to try my fortune with the Lyon, and by main strength caught him about the body, whereat the Lyon forsook him, and let him pass. Orson likewise assailed the Willian, and e'er he could be ready to lift up his club of Iron, he took him by the middle so strongly, that he threw him against the Wall; he took away his club, and gave him such a blow that he tumbled on the Ground, & had it not been for the Lady Clerimond, he had slain him in that place. Being both thus banquished, the Gate was opened, and they entred the chamber, wherein they might see all the World could afford, as Gold, Azure, Rubies, Sapphires, with a great multitude of precious Stones: Within this chamber was four Pillars of Jasper, marvellous rich, of which two of them are Yellow as most fine Gold, and a third Green, more Green than Grass, a fourth more Red than a Flame of Fire; between these Pillars was a precious Stone, called an Amery, more Rich than the heart of Man
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can devise, in the midst of which stood a head of brass, set upon a Rich Pillar, Valentine wondering at the Riches of these Objects, fixed his Eyes only upon the Head, longing to hear what it would publicly open concerning his Birth. At length when every voice was silent, the Head began to speak after this manner. 'Thou famous Kt. of Royal Parentage, art called Valentine the Valient, of whom it may justly be said, there was never the like appeared before me; thou art the Man, who of right ought to marry with the Lady Clerimond, thou art Son to the Emperour of Greece, and thy Mothers Name is Bellisant, Sister to king Pepin of France, who by wrong Suggestions is banished her country, and hath hands Bed; know this, thy Mother is in Portugal, in the castle of Ferragus, who hath had the keeping of her these Twenty Years: Pepin is thy Uncle, and the Wild man who hath ever Accompanied thee, is thy Natural Brother; you two were Delivered by the Empress Bellisant, in the Forrest of Orleance, and being brought forth, thy companion was taken away by a Ravenous Bear, and by her he was nourished in that Wood, among the rest of her Whelps, and never sucked he any other: For thy part Valentine, thou wast found the very same day in that Forrest by king Pepin, who hath nourished thee tenderly, and brought thee up to Man's Estate: Further, thus much I shall also tell thee, that this thy Brother here present, shall never have the use of his Tongue, till a Thread be cut under the same, and then thou shalt hear him speak plainly. Therefore proceed as thou hast begun, and thou shalt prosper, for my time is at a Period, Sith thou art come to enter into this chamber.

Valentine marking well all the Head had uttered, fell upon the bosom of his brother Orson, and Orson on his, and with kind embraces they counter-changed each other. The Lady seeing all this, began thus to break out into speeches: Alas, courteous Knight, I of all other ought most to joy at this your happy Arrival, for by you I am freed of Ten Years hearts grief, which I have hardly undergone hitherto. Again, by this Brazen-head I understand that you have ever been the Man on whom my affections should rest, and whereunto I gently agree (if you please) and take you for my wedded Lord.

Lady, quoth Valentine, I accept you as my Wife, who was given to me by your Brother the Green Knight, that was vanquished by my Brother Orson before the City of Aquitain: only this I shall Request. That as your Brother the Green Knight hath forsaken Mahomet, so you would do he like. Sir, quoth she, I shall gladly pleasure you in any thing you command me, and be obedient to your will in every Point, whilst you

and I shall live. And so great Joy betided all the Inhabitants of this castle, for they were right Glad of the Tydings that the Brazen-head had declared unto him. After this, the Reputation of Valentine increased more and more: But all his former joy and gladness was suddenly eclipsed by the Treachery of her Brother Ferragus, as hereafter shall be more fully be declared.

Chap. XXI. How the Gyant Ferragus had knowledge of all that past between his Sister and Valentine, by the means of one Pacolet a Dwarf, and an Enchanter.

NOW shall you understand, that within this castle where Clerimond was, dwelt a Dwarf (named Pacolet) which the Lady had nourished and brought up of a Child, bestowing much cost to have him taught in Schools. This Pacolet being of more age than Stature, grew exceeding witty, and at last studied the Black Art, and therein grew so famous in Negromancy, that by Enchantment, he had composed a little Horse made of Wood; in the Head of which Horse, he had so Artificially conveyed a pin of Wood, that every time he mounted on his back to Ride abroad, he would turn the Pin towards the place he would go unto, and suddenly he would be in the same place without danger; for the Horse could Run through the Air swifter than any Bird. This Pacolet being in the castle, observed the behaviour of Valentine, and when he had fit time, he addressed himself to Portugal, to hear news to Ferragus, how all matters had passed at the castle. So he betook himself to his Wooden Horse, and in a moment of time (setting the Pin for that part) he arrived there, according to his desired wish, and Related the story unto Ferragus. When Ferragus heard this Tale, he grew exceeding Angry against Valentine, for that he should have his Sister in Marriage: Also, he grew enraged at her, that she should grant her love unto him (being a christian Knight) swearing by his Gods to take Revenge upon them both: But all this he dissembled unto Pacolet, bidding him Return and bear this Message to Clerimond, that the knight Valentine, who shall have her to Wife, is Right welcome, and that e'er long I will come in Person to visit them, accompanied with a Gallant Troop of Nobles, and then shall their Nuptials be Royally Solemnized: So Pacolet took leave, and got him on his Horse, and was in an instant at home again. Being come, he presently went into the presence of the Lady Clerimond, and said unto her: Madam, I have been in portugal with your Brother Ferragus, who is glad of your choice with Valentine, and pro-

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miseth e'er long to be here in Person, and to make a Royal Marriage. At this Tale the Lady stood amazed, and at last began to answer him thus: Ah Pacolet, is this true that thou hast told? Aye me, the Gods defend my Brother from Plotting any Treason against me, for I am well assured he could never abide a Knight of France, nor any other that is a Christian; I am Right angry that thou didst not acquaint me with thy departure, for I had a serious business for thee to do, which was to have enquired there for a Christian Woman, one that of long time hath had her abiding with my Brother Ferragus, in the castle that he now holdeth.

Chap. XXII. How Pacolet hereupon made another expeditious Journey into Portugal, to see the Lady Bellissant, Valentine's Mother; his returning back, and the News that he brought.



THE Lady having ended her Tale, Pacolet made her this answer: Lady, seeing you are so earnest, I shall for your sake make another journey into Portugal, and before to morrow mid-day, I shall bring you tidings whether she be there or no. Valentine hearing him say so, replied: That thou canst not do, except the Devil be in thee: The Lady Clerimond said

unto Valentine: Let him alone, for by Art he hath provided, that he will ride more than a thousand Miles a day. Hereat Valentine marvelled much, and calling Orson unto him, he cut the Thread from under his Tongue, that binded his speech, which being done, he spake presently, where he related the story of his life led in the Forrest, which held them the most part of that Evening. On the Morrow, according as pacolet had promised, he was found in the Hall before Valentine, saying unto him on this manner: Sir, I am Returned from Portugal, and have seen your Mother in good Health: Friend (quoth Valentine thou art right welcome, for it is the I only desire to hear off. Love (quoth Clerimond) be not too hasty, for if my Brother come not thither, we will go into Portugal to him, and then we shall have both our hearts desire. Nay, surely, quoth pacolet, your Brother will come hither: Ay, quoth the Lady, but I stand in fear of him, lest that he work some Treason against us; for this last Night I dreamed a fearful Dream, at which I was very much affrighted, and thus it was: I dreamed I was in a great water, in the which I should have perished, had it not been for a great face that drew me out thereof; being out, methought I saw a Giffin issue out of a Cloud, who with his Talons took me up, and carried me I know not whither. Love, quoth Valentine, give no Respect at all to Dreams, for they be but Delusions of a melancholly mind. 'Tis true, quoth she, but they trouble me every night. Having ended this Discourse, they entered into a fair Arbo, garnished with great varieties of Flowers, Reposing themselves some few hours in long dalliance, where we will leave them; and you shall hear that the same day arrived Ferragus, the Traytor, at the castle of Clerimond.

The Lady hearing of his coming, presently went to welcome him, & he as kindly embraced her, and said unto her; Sister, above all Creatures living, I have most desired to see you; tell me I pray you, which is the Knight you mean to make your husband? This, (said Brother,) is the Man. Whereupon Valentine saluted him with great Reverence. Ferragus said unto him: Fair Knight, Be he welcome into these Quarters, for the love of my Sister Clerimond; for seeing it is so fallen out, that you have conquer'd my Brother the Green Knight, & sent him into France, causing him to be Christen'd, even so have I a great desire to be baptized, to become a Christian, and follow your Religion.

Valentine believed all these words which he had spoken; but under these fair promises he smothered Treason; yet at last Valentine began thus to say unto him: Sir, it is Reported to me, that within your castle, for the space of these twenty Years, you have maintained a Christian Man, who

is Mother unto me, whom I would gladly see, her Name is Bellifant, Sister to King pepin of France, and Wife unto the Emperour of Greece. By Mahomet, said Ferragus, you say truth, and to the end your Eyes may behold her, you shall go along with me into portugal, so shall you rightly be informed, whether she be the Lady you seek after or no; Gamercy, quoth Valentine, and so Ferragus left him, and said unto his Sister Clerimond after this manner: Sister, my Soules joy, I desire your Advancement more than any thing on earth. and am glad you have found out so worthy and valiant a Knight for your Espousal; wherefore to knit up all at once, my desire is, that you would go with me into portugal, and there, with the consent and applause of all my Nobles, we intend highly to solemnize your Nuptial-day.

Chap. XXIII. How Valentine and Orson were betrayed by the Treachery of Ferragus; and how he committed them to prison, with their woeful Lamentation.

Ferragus having thus gotten their good Wills to depart for portugal, put all his Ships in a Readiness, and packing up all their Provision, they put forth for Sea. Being now at Sea, Ferragus fell from all his former words of Comfort, and began to Plot the Death of Valentine and Orson. In the dead time of the Night, when the two Brethren were at Rest in their Cabins, he caused them secretly to be taken forth of their beds, and committed them to bands, muzzling their Eyes also that they could not see: Now when Clerimond saw what was done to her Love, she fell into an extream Agony, and with watery Eyes began thus to vent her Lamentations: Alas, dear Valentine, our Joys are suddenly turned unto Sorrow, thou hast bought my Love at too dear a Rate, when thou art not only thus misused, but even in danger of thy Life: Cursed be the day of my birth, for with much danger hast thou purchased my love. Alas, alas, what shall I do? went heart, weep forth my eyes, when such a valiant, hardy, and most magnanimous Knight must be thus Tortured for my sake: Thou hast deceived the trust I put in thee, by working so foul an act against my Love: Thou hast Robbed me of all Joy, and brought upon me an untimely Death. Further, know this, that if you put to Death these two Knights, you carry to your Grave the Name of a Villain. Let them alone, their Death will work you small content: Or if there be no Remedy, spare them, and seize first upon me, and cast me into the Sea, for I would not live to see two such Innocents falsely put to death without desert. even

when so much was the Lady perplexed, that with very hearts sorrows she would have slain her self, or else violently have leaped over-board into the Sea.

Ferragus perceiving her in this desperate fit, gave strict command that she should be well attended by some of his Barons, and especially that she should not so much as speak a word with either of the Prisoners; thus leaving her to her Laments, and the Christians, both Valentine and Orson fast bound in bands. Valentine perceiving himself thus betrayed, began thus to bemoan his hard hap: Alas, quoth he, how unkind hath fortune dealt with me? I have spent all my Youth in travel and danger, only to find out the Parents that begat me, and see now, when hope had well nigh set an end to all my sorrows, I am unhappily fallen into the hands of mine Enemies, that only seek my Death. Alas, Brother Orson, how suddenly are all our Joys blasted, and our Mirth turned into mourning? On this wise complained Valentine & Orson, but all this while are they on their way towards Portugal, and shortly after arrived at the Castle of Ferragus. Being there Arrived, tidings was brought to the Lady Bellissant, that two Christian Knights were come along with them as Prisoners, At which News she quickly left her chamber, and came to have a sight of them: When she was come near unto them, and had well Re-viewed them, at last she said thus unto them: Children, quoth she, of what country be you, and where were you born? Lady, quoth Valentine, we be of France, and born not far from Parris: Ferragus perceiving the Lady to speak unto them, sharply Rebuked her, saying: Lady, leave your questioning, for except they Renounce their Faith, they shall miserable end their Days in Prison: And therewithal called unto him a Jaylor, and committed them into a Dungeon, to be there kept only with Bread and Water. This misery was not sufficient, but more than that, certain churlish Sarazens standing by, smote these two children with their fists and staves.

After Ferragus had committed them, he got him up into his Palace, and called for his Sister Clerimond unto him; when she came before him, she could not forbear tears, which made him thus say unto her: Sister, leave weeping, for I swear by Mahomet, you have too long doted upon the brazen-head, as well appeareth, in that you make your choice with one of the contrary Religion: But change your mind, for it is a shame that you should first take him to Husband, that hath been the overthrow of our Brother the Green Knight, next a Christian, whom our Laws do abhor. Forbear (I say therefore) & be Ruled by my direction, and I will Raise your fortunes, by Matching you to that puissant King Trompart. Forget, I say, these

two French-men, for thou shalt see, I will make them shorter by the head. Brother (quoth Clerimond) it becometh me to obey you; for I plainly see I must let go the thing I cannot have; for whereas force constraineth, fear hath little power, and necessity often preventeth Truth. These discourses finished, Ferragus departed with his Queen and other Attendants, and entering the great Hall, with very much honour and reverence they received the Lady Clerimond, the Queen thus laying unto her: Sister, welcome, for I have long desired to have a sight of you. Lady (quoth Clerimond) I give you a Million of thanks, but know this, that I am right heavy and sad for two Christian Knights that are come hither under colour of Friendship and Love, brought over by my Brother's fair promises, and now to be violently handled, as to be thrown into a Dungeon, and also threatened to death. This Sister, even this, wounds my Soul, and splitteth my very heart in sunder. Alas, Sister, pity me, for one of these Knights should be my Husband, amongst all Men living, he is the comeliest, valiantest, and hardest Knight that lieth upon the face of the Earth. Again (dear Sister) by force of Arms hath he conquered his Foe, and won my love: Wherefore Lady pity my distressed Estate, and let me see that Christian Lady which you so long have kept within this Castle. Sister (said the Queen) I shall gladly consent to your desire herein; and so bringing them together, the Lady Bellisant said thus unto her: Lady, what is your will with me? Speak on, for I would Gladly hear any thing you have to say. Then thus, I bring you joyful Tidings, and yet the end of my Tale will be as sorrowful as the beginning is joyful; know this, that I am not Ignorant of your Estate and Dignity, for you are Sister to Pepin King of France, and Wife unto the Emperour of Greece, who wrongfully banished you his Country: Soon after your Exile, you were Delivered of two fair Sons in a Forrest, one of which was taken from you by a Bear, and the other you lost you know not how. All this is true. Nay Lady, your Children are both Alive, and I can tell you where to find them. At these words Bellisant fell into a swoond for Joy; Clerimond quickly recovered her again, and then the Lady said unto her: Fair Damocel, how came all these things to your understanding? Then Clerimond related the whole story; how Ferragus her Brother by Subtlety and Treason had put them into a Dungeon. Bellisant hearing her two Children were Imprisoned by Ferragus, made Great lamentation, in so much that the Wife of Ferragus entered the Hall, to understand the cause of their mournful clamours; Clerimond told the Queen all from point to point. Well, said the Queen, be appeased, and dissemble the cause from the King,

King, for if he have any knowledge thereof, it will make him rather so much the worse, than better affected, either to them or you.

Chap. XXIV. How Pacolet, the Dwarf, comforted the two Ladies.

As these three Ladies were conferring about this matter, into the Chamber came pacolet the Dwarf, that was now come from his Wooden horse. When Clerimond saw him, he wept bitterly, and said, Alas pacolet, what Injury have I done unto thee, that thou shouldst thus rob me of all my Joys at once? For I am well assured that thou mightest have given me warning of all these miseries. Lady, quoth pacolet, be not so highly displeased at me, for I protest I am Ignorant of all that hath betided you; but seeing you have begun these bitter bickerings, I swear my Art shall utterly forsake me, but I will find a Remedy for you to abenge your self, and to that purpose, I here vow all my Service unto you and Valentine, while Life doth last. Friend (quoth the Lady bellissant) if thou canst but free my two Children out of Prison, I shall acknowledge my self highly indebted to thee, and I will recompence thy labours every way. Lady (quoth pacolet) no more take you care, but comfort your self, and e'er long you shall well perceive my crafty work to take such effect by my Art, that you shall have cause to remember me while you have a day to live.

Chap. XXV. How by Art Pacolet set free Valentine and Orson from the prison of Ferragus, and conducted them out of his confines, with their Mother and fair Clerimond.

It chanced that one day Ferragus made a great Feast for all his Nobles; which day they passed in such rebelling and mirth, that the night growing late, they all betook themselves to rest. Being all at rest, pacolet was still watchful to give the Ladies content, and coming to a great Tower, whose Gates were brass, and surely locked, by his Enchantment the Gates flew open, and he Entered therein. Anon he came unto the door of the Prison, where the Ladies two Sons lay bound, and as soon as he touched the door, the locks break, and flew open as before. The two Princes lying there in a dark Dungeon, and hearing the door open were greatly perplexed, for they looked for nothing but present death; and at last Valentine began to weep, but Orson said unto him: Take Courage Brother, for it behobeth us to prepare for death: And although it is so, he that first entereth here to lay hands upon me, shall dearly pay for his adventure: With that he laid hold of a great Iron

Iron bar that lay thereby: But at last Pacolet speak unto them, saying, Lords, fear me not, for I am come to set you free from forth this Dungeon, wherefore make no Noise, but follow me, and before the morrow Sun, I shall bring you both unto your Mother. Valentine at this speech rejoiced greatly, but Orson beholding him with an austere look, would not give any credit to his words. Pacolet at the fierce look of Orson was much astonished, insomuch that he gave back, but by the words of Valentine he was much comforted, and Orson's Fury abated.

After this, Pacolet led them to the Chamber whereas these two sorrowful Ladies sat in mournful Tears. When he came unto the door of the Chamber, it was fast locked, but he did easily open it. After they entered in, Pacolet so wrought with his Charms, that all that was thereabouts fell into a heavy and dead sleep, and knew nothing of their coming. Being in the Chamber where the two heavy Ladies were, the two Sons went to their Mother, but she suddenly fell into a swoond, speaking unto them never a word: But the Lady Clerimond piteously said thus unto Valentine: Alas (fair Kt.) this is the Mother that bare you, who for the love and joy of you is fallen into this Extasie. Then Valentine embraced her, and took her up in his Arms; and Orson also clasped her about the Middle, saying unto her, Sweet Mother, speak unto me, and then he kissed her tender Lips, but all this while she speak never a word, but at last they all three fell flat upon the Earth in a swoond, and there lay panting for breath a long season, while the fair Lady Clerimond stood over them, bewailing this strange Accident: At last coming to themselves again, the Mother said unto them weeping: Alas, my Children, for your sakes have I suffered more pain & anguish than ever poor Woman was able to undergo, and you two the only cause of these my dolorous passions, but Alth the Gods have so ordained, that I may once see you, and Embrace you before my Death, all my Griefs are vanquished, and become no burden unto me: But tell me, how you have been preserv'd ever since your Birth, and in what Country, and with whom have you Remained? For it would glad me to hear the Event thereof. At last, she having ended her words, Valentine began the piteous Story of all their Miseries, even to that present hour. Valentine having finished his sad Tale, by which the Empress Bellissant clearly knew that they were both her Natural Children, weeping with many more Tears than before, she was like to have fallen into a swoond again, but Pacolet prevented her, who was at that instant in the Chamber, saying unto her: Lady, leave these laments, and let us think how we may depart from Portugal, and so bid us out of the subjection of King Ferragus. Alas, said Clerimond, my love re-
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member the Oath that you have made unto me, to make me your Wife. Dear Lady (quoth Valentine) what I have promised I will perform, but at this present, the love I owe unto this my Mother, toucheth me near the Heart.

These words of Valentine being ended, Orson said unto Pacolet, Go open me the doo of Ferragus, and with these hands I shall work his final downfall and overthrow. Pacolet answered, Come, go along with me, and I shall gladly open it to fulfil this your desire. But know this, if you Murther him, you shall lose the love of my Brother the Green Knight, who may divers and sundry ways do us displeasure. Quoth Valentine, you say truth, and I agree unto this your wise and good motion, for I would not have you guilty of such a Crime, as the Death of this your Brother, for to gain the whole World.

At this very hour they departed the City, and Pacolet opened the Gates before them, and they followed him down to one of the Ports of the Sea, where he had appointed for them a Ship ready Rigged, and having a fair Gale of Wind, they speedily Arrived at the Castle of Clerimond: whither being once come, they refreshed themselves with Pleasures.

Chap. XXVI. How Valentine and Orson escaped the Castle of Ferragus, and sailed with the two Ladies into Aquitain.

Valentine being come, and safely Arrived at the Castle of Clerimond, could not so content himself therewith, but still grew more and more doubtful of Ferragus, fearing lest he should follow them, and put them into fresh dangers. Therefore to prevent all occasions of further Mischief, he got him down unto one of the Ports, causing the Mariners there present to victual their Ship afresh, and also provided good store of Munition to be in readiness upon all occasions. Having thus done, he returned again unto the Castle without any Suspicion: Being come, at last he began thus unto his Mother Bellissant, and the Lady Clerimond, saying, That he would suddenly depart from Greece, towards Constantinople, to see his Father the Emperor, who, without any just cause, had banish'd his Mother. To this agreed both the Ladies, with Orson and Pacolet.

The next day they took Shipping and went on their Voyage, and at break of day, the Taylor (according to his accustomed manner) went to the Tower to visit the Prisoners, and to bear them their Allowance of Bread and Water. Coming unto the Gates, he found them all open, and the Prisoners gone; he suddenly returned to the King, and said unto him; Dread King,
 D
 Mercy,

Merrey, for this Night I have lost the two Christian Knights that you had delibered to Prison. He had no sooner done speaking, but another Messenger appeared, and said: O King, a greater mischief than this has likewise happen'd this Night, for the Christian Woman whom you have kept so many years, is this Night escaped away, and hath carry'd along with her your Sister Clerimond. Ferragus understanding these harsh Tydings, all Enraged, began to tear his hair, that he was as a Mad Man amongst his Barons, and suddenly causing them to be Armed, he made them to pursue and follow them: So he betaking himself to his Club, Issued out the foremost.

He was a mighty Man, who was in Stature about thirteen Foot in Height. Being out of the Town, he calling his Men about him, went forward to follow them that were Escaped, letting none pass he met withal, but he demanded Tidings of them, yet he could not hear of them; for Pacolet by his Art was too subtil for Ferragus. At last being tired with pursuit, he swore that he would besiege the Castle of Clerimond, for he did think assuredly to find her there, but all in vain, for they had been there, but they were departed before his coming. Thus Enraged, he swore by Mahomet, that he would either find Clerimond, and all her Company, or else he would shake all Christendom, and so departed the Castle.

Chap. XXVII. How King Ferragus asssembled all his Men of War, to take Revenge upon Valentine, and his Sister Clerimond, and how he followed them into Aquitain.

When Ferragus had long laboured, & could hear no Tidings of the Christians, and his Sister Clerimond, he was Grieved, and in his Fury sent for all his Men of War on every side, presently to assemble themselves to take Sea, and follow Valentine, to try if they could find him, and bring him back again. But when they had spent many daies, & affected nothing, they returned every man to his home, and rested from their fruitless Toil. Whilst Ferragus and his Forces were thus scowring the flowing Seas, Valentine and Orson were entered the City of Aquitain: Being there, they dissembled their Estate, and as private Persons, Lodged in a house of a Burges of the Town. Valentine would gladly have gone into the Palace of Duke Savary, but Orson, thereunto would not agree, for he having a further reach of Policy, said thus unto him: Brother, I find by small Experience, that Women are Unconstant, therefore hearken to my Advice, let us only see and try how the Lady Pezon standeth Affected towards me, & hereon

we shall try her constancy. Brother (quoth Valentine) I shall Right willingly agree hereto. Then Orson took upon him the habit of a Knight Errant, and entered the great Hall, taking Pacolet the Dwarf for his Page. When he was come before the Duke, he saluted him with all Reverence. The Duke observing well his behaviour, took him to be Orson that thus demeaned himself, but after finding by his Speech he was like to be deceived, he said: Great Duke, I am a Knight Errant, and one who would gladly adventure to do you service in any manner you will employ me. Knight (quoth the Duke) I accept your proffered Service, and will give you Salary enough to content you, inasmuch that if you will not depart my service before I give you leave, I shall give you such Riches, that all the stock you came from, could never raise. Thanks, great Duke, quod Orson, for your Liberal Heart, and I here Clow e'er I Depart, to deserve your Love and Liberality.

Hereupon the Duke Requested him to visit his Court, and in lieu of his good will, he allowed him in present pay one Hundred and Fifty Pounds, making him withal a Companion for the Court. Orson thus preferred by the Duke, behaved himself worthy of his preferment, and ever so carried him at Meat, that every Man delighted in his Company. Amongst the Rest, the fair Lady Rezon, that was sworn his Wife, grew wondrous heavy and sad; but she knew not why, for she knew not that it was Orson, whom she had beheld; and thus passed forth the Dinner time. Dinner being done, Orson took his leave for that time, and returned to his Lodging, where his Mother and the Lady Clerimond had taken up their Residence. Orson being come unto the place where the Ladies lay, he Related to them the whole passage between him and the Duke, which when they heard, they much Rejoyced thereat; but this Joy lasted not long, for there came sudden News, that Ferragus had sent Messengers to the Duke of Aquitain to Proclaim open Wars against him.

The Duke hearing this unwelcome News, presently provided both Men and Provision, to Resist so proud an Enemy. Ferragus according to his purpose, suddenly arrived before Aquitain, even in the very same place, whereas his Brother the Green Knight had pitched Pavillions, when that Orson became his vanquisher; by this means much hurt Redounded unto the Country and Provinces thereabout, whereas the Sarazens Army lay in Readiness, thinking by this their long and tedious continuance, to subdue, and over-run the whole Country before them.

Ferragus still resolving upon this Imagination (mark what followed) the worthy Duke of Aquitain, being of a Magnanimous Courage, assembled all

his Pen of War, and being thus put in a Readiness, he suddenly issued out of the Town, venturing to raise the Siege. Amongst the rest, Valentine and Orson made their appearance, being also accompanied with little Pacolet, but these three were not known unto any at that time: Where we will now leave them a little, to hear what followeth.

Chap. XXVIII. How the Duke of Aquitain was taken Prisoner in the Battel by Ferragus, and how Orson set him free by the help of Pacolet.

THE Duke of Aquitain calling to mind the huge Army of the Sarazens that lay before the City, valiantly resolved to give them present battel the next morrow, so calling up all his Forces, and placing them in a Readiness, there happened a bloody Battel before the city of Aquitain, and many a brave Leader on both parts there lost their lives. The Giant Ferragus himself was amongst the thickest, gathering himself as near as he could unto his Standard-bearer. The chief men slain in this battel, were six valiant Knights, that is to say, Baudumain, Bondry, William Gale-ram, Anthony the good Marshal, and Gloriam the hardy; all near about the Duke of Aquitain, and they that had the chief command throughout his camp. This happening, the christians were forced to fall back, whereby the Duke himself was begirt with Enemies, so that none might come to succour him; yet in the midst of these dangers, he bare himself most valiant, and still cryed, Aquitain, Aquitain, my Noble Hearts fight on for Aquitain; but in the end, all little abailed, Ferragus having once gotten a sight of him, came near, and at last took him Prisoner, and led him to his Pabillion. Ferragus having thus bestowed the Duke, came up again to the Battel, which struck such an amazement into the hearts of the christians, that they would have forsaken the field, especially, because they had lost the Duke, their Lord and Master. Valentine and Orson seeing them thus to waver, came to them with all the speed they could, and cryed to them with a loud voice: Valiant & Men of Aquitain, shew your selves Men, Run not away in time of Extremity, for if you do, lamentable will be your Reproach, be hardy and couragious; once again let us try the Fortune of the day.

These two Knights having thus done speaking, the People began afresh to gather up their scattered Forces, and turned them once more on the Sarazens, with a double courage. By this time Tidings was brought into the city that the Duke was taken Prisoner, at which All Pious the Lady Fezon lamented more than all the Rest; saying with a heavy heart, Med-
ding

ding Tears: Alas my Father! now is your life in hazard, for from these Sarazens there is no hope of any mercy. Farewel Sweet Father (quoth she) I shall never hereafter see you again, but shall be here left a dejected Orphan. Alas Orson, my Love, thy long and tedious staying abroad doth much dis-temper me, for if you were here present, there would be some hope to gain my Fathers freedom.

Valentine all this while is amongst the thickest, hewing forth his way with his Sword. Orson on the other side was not Idle, for he had taken an Oath, that he would free the Duke from captivity, or leave his body amongst the Rest. Pacolet the Magician and Dwarf, promised Orson aid and assistance at need; and thus all busied, and nigh hand wearied, Orson put Spurs to his Horse, and Ran violently thorow the Battel, & escaped: Orson and Pacolet being past danger, hurled away their own Shields, and hanging about their Necks the Shields of the Sarazens, set forth with the Image of Mahomet in them and by this subtilty they passed quite thorow the camp of the Pagans, for Pacolet could speak their Language Right well. Now are they come unto the Pavilion of Ferragus, where the Duke lay in bands, thinking to have Released him: But Pacolet perceiving the Number of his Guard to be too mighty for them, he suddenly cast them all by his charms into a deadly Sleep: Being thus made fast, he came unto the Duke, and said unto him: Come with us presently, mount this Horse, for we are come to set you free from the power of Ferragus; if you doubt what I am, I am the Knight which in your Hall demanded Wages of you, and you allowed me liberally. Stand no longer to question me, neither fear the power of all the Pagans here assembled, for I will surely be your Guide thro' the Wicked Rout. Knight, quoth the Duke, you are a welcome Man to my distressed hands, and therefore for your dangerous Enterprise, in working my Deliverance, I shall give you my fair Daughter Ferragon in Marriage. Indeed (I must confess) I had given her not long to a Knight, but he was wild and Savage, and he never had the use of his Tongue, but by Reason of his long absence, I fear he hath won some other Lady, and left my Daughter Husbandless; but to be short, take her for this thy Noble Act, and with her I freely give thee half of my Dukedom. Thanks, quoth the Knight, such a gift is not to be Refused; but let that pass, and let us make Ready for our Escape, that we may Return unto our discomfited forces. Having thus said, they all three took their way back again thro' the Camp of the Enemy, without disturbance. All this while was Valentine in the Army, demanding what was become of his Brother Orson, but he found no Man could tell him any Tidings of him, he grew

wondrous heavy and sad, fearing very much that he had been slain in the conflict of the battel.

Thus passed Valentine from place to place, to find out his Brother Orson, and with a Resolute mind Rushed afresh into the battel, and as a Man distracted, he laid so forcibly about him, that not a Pagan was able to stand before him: Ferragus spying him so valiant, came up to close him, and having gotten him once in chase, never left him, until he had slain his Horse under him.

Valentine having thus lost his Horse, Ferragus seized on him as his Prisoner, causing him to be bound hand & foot, taking an Oath by Mahomet, that he should not escape from Death, though there were not a Man more to be had throughout the whole Land; but this Oath was broken, for as he was leading his Prisoner Valentine fast bound along the field, Orson, Pacolet, and the Duke of Aquitaine set upon him, Orson crying out, Let him not escape us; and therewithal put spurs to his Horse, and ran so fiercely against the Pagan Ferragus, that both he and Valentine, his Prisoner, fell to the Earth; the Giant Ferragus quickly regained his feet, and left Valentine, who fearing, began to Run away. Orson spying him, cried out, Brother, Return again, and fear nothing; hereupon Valentine was new mounted: When the Christians saw the Duke again at liberty, their courages again increased, their forces doubled, and with joy of heart they cried out aloud; Long Live the Duke of Aquitaine. This sudden Possesse much amazed the Sarazens, insomuch that Ferragus was glad to flee, and Raise his Siege: When the Men of Aquitaine heard the Retreat, they Recovered themselves again into the City. The Battel being thus ended, Valentine and Pacolet Returned to their Lodging; but Orson went along with the Duke to his Palace, whither being come, he called before him all his Nobles, and his Daughter Fezon; being all assembled, he called Orson unto him, demanding of him his Name: Sir, quoth he, I am called Gregory. Then said the Duke thus before them all, Lords, I give you to understand, that above all Men living, I am most beholding to this Knight, both for my life and liberty. And as for you Daughter Fezon, it is my pleasure, that above all Men, you accept this Knight for your Husband; Daughter, you have good cause to love him well, for by him I am made a living Father unto you.

The Nobles there assembled agreed willingly hereunto, affirming that they should do no less than to submit to her Fathers Will, and the rather, considering the Dangers that by him had been prevented: Orson hearing all this, still concealed himself, till he had further assayed the Constancy of the

the Lady fezon, acquainting his Brother Valentine what he had purposed to do, as ensucth in this next Chapter.

Chap. XXIX. How Orson tryed the Constancy of the Lady Fezon, before he Married her.

Orson having a desire to try the Constancy of Fezon, at last Replied thus unto the Duke: Sir, for the Honour you have touchsafed me, I Beft ever thankful for the same; but for your Daughter, it were most requisite that I should see how she stands affected towards me, and likewise fit for her to make choice of such a Man as is of equal Birth with hers; and therefore if it please you, let her answer for her self. With these words he entered into the Chamber of fair fezon, and sitting down by her, he took her by the hand, and said unto her: Lady, your beauty hath so enlarged my heart, that without your favour and love, I am an unfortunate Man: Your Father is willing that I shall enjoy you, if you please so also, then may I justly vaunt, that I have won the fairest Lady living, & will prove a constant Knight whilst I have breath; if you consent to this, let us embrace each other. Knight, (quoth the Lady, you ought to forbear, for all your labour is lost: It is true, I love all Knights, yea, all good Men too, in the rule of honour; but as for him whom I mean to make my Husband, him will I never change, nor yet forget. Why? But fair Lady (quoth Orson) that which your Royal Father hath provided for you, ought to please you; Sir (said she) it is Reason that I obey my Father, but if so be that my Father will constrain me to break my faith, and forsake him that vanquished the Green Knight, I will rather leave my Father, than once offer to break my faith. Lady (quoth Orson) I wonder how you can set your affections on such a Man, for he is of a Wild nature and disposition; besides, as your Father Reporteth, is dumb, and cannot speak a word. True (quoth the Lady) yet love learneth me to love him with a faithful affection, to whom my faith is already fixed; and therefore stay your Suit, for I will never alter, nor change my mind from him.

Orson herat grew wondrous Joyal, to hear the wise answer of fezon, & took his leave of her; and came again to the Duke, saying, Great Duke, I am Returned from your Daughter, for she hath given me an utter denial, saying; that she will never have no other Husband than he that conquered the Green Knight. Quoth the Duke, care not for her denial, for she shall not Rule her own will, but be you a little patient this Day, and I will talk with her my self. Thanks mighty Duke (quoth he) I am much beholding

unto

unto you, and so left the Court, and came to the Lodging of his Brother Valentine, to whom he Related the whole matter of his proceedings with the Lady fezon. Brother (said Valentine) you now know and find her faithful; but let us go together to the Palace, for I am assured the Duke will give me good Entertainment. Brother (said Orson) do as you please: Valentine clad himself in Rich Apparel, and Orson put on nothing but the Jacket in which he first entered into Aquitaine, & thus, accompanied with a colet, they went towards the Palace; and as they came into the great Hall, they found the Duke conferring with his Daughter, in the presence of his Nobles, saying thus unto her: Daughter, what moveth you to Neglect my command thus, in Rejecting the Knight, of whose love I have made sufficient Tryal, for he hath saved my Life? Father (quoth the Maiden) I pray you to Solicite me no farther in this matter, seeing you know assuredly that I have given my promise to him that vanquished the Green Knight: What greater Shame can there be, than to break my promise which I have made already? If by you I am constrained, the danger light upon you, and let me be Innocent. As they were thus discoursing, the Duke espied Valentine and Orson coming towards him, whom he embraced and honourably entreated. Orson having saluted the Duke, passed towards the Lady fezon, who receiving him with a smiling countenance, and said unto him: You are welcome above all others, your long absence hath greatly Grieved me, and had you not come now in as you did, my father had bestowed me upon another Knight. Love (quoth Orson) I have learned to speak since I was with you last, and am the very same Man that Yesterday Courted you in your Chamber: All which pleased the Lady exceedingly. So Orson went into the Chamber, and put on Rich Apparel: Being thus attired, he entered the Hall. The Duke hearing of his coming embraced him kindly, and said, Son, pardon my Rashness, in that I would have given away thy love to another, for I was fully perswaded that thou wouldest never have Returned. Sir, quoth Orson, I forgive you. Then the Duke demanded how, and where they had spent their time, since their departure? Orson told him their whole Progress, and what dangers they escaped, and withal, how they two were the Sons of the Emperour of Constantinople, and Bellifant, Sister to King Pepin, of France, whom they had lately found in Portugal. The Duke hearing that their descent was of Royal Blood, was Right glad thereof, and said: You are worthy of all honour by reason of your Birth, but I am sorry that your Father the Emperour, and your Uncle King Pepin, are so hardly besieged by the Sarazens, and that unless speedy Aid be sent unto them, they will be forced to yield them.

themselves. Valentine giving good Ear unto this Relation, grew exceeding sad, but pacolet at last put him somewhat out of his dumps, and said: Leave off your sorrowing, for e'er to morrow night I shall send you to Constantinople. But (quoth Valentine) it must be then by the Devils Means. Sir, said pacolet, mount you upon my Wooden-horse, and try the event that will follow after. Valentine answered, that will I do, for I desire nothing so much as the sight of my Father, whom I never saw. Valentine on the morrow prepared to depart: But before his departure, the Duke married his Daughter unto Orson, in the presence of the Lady Bellisant, and the Lady Clerimond, with the Consent of his Nobles that were at the Wedding, where there was great Triumphs: And in this Assembly there was a Spy, who observed all the Proceedings, and gave Intelligence thereof unto Ferragus. When Ferragus had Received these Tidings, he vowed by Mahomet to be Revenged on them all, but especially on pacolet, for stealing away his Sister Clerimond, whom he so much loved, and Ranked her among the Christians.

Chap. XXX. How Ferragus the Gyant strengthened his forces by the Aid of King Trompart, and the Enchanter Adrimain.

Ferragus being out of hope to get Revenge on the two Knights, and his Sister Clerimond, called unto him a Messenger, and delivered to him divers Letters of State, especially one of them was to King Trompart, of whom he desired Aid against his Enemies; all which, if he could speedily accomplish, he would give unto him for his Wife, his Sister Clerimond. At the farewell of his Letter, he desired him to bring along with him the Enchanter Adrimain. Here leave we the Gyant, and Return to Valentine, who by this time is taking his leave for Constantinople. But in the end he said thus unto the Duke, and Orson his Brother: Lords, with you I leave my lovely Clerimond. Valentine, quoth the Duke, take you no thought for her, for I shall have a Fatherly Eye over her, as well as I have over my Daughter fezon.

Valentine having taken leave, at last came to Clerimond, who, loath to part with him, wept bitterly, whereby he was forced to leave her, and turning him to his Brother Orson, said thus, Brother, commend me to my Father the Emperour, and to my Uncle King Pepin, and tell them e'er long I will visit them. Brother (quoth Valentine) I shall Remember you, and so departed. Orson still Remained in the Palace, but Valentine had a duty yet more to do; namely, to take his leave of his Mother: But when

she clasped him Round with her Arms, but was not able to speak: Valentine perceiving her Natural Affection, he comforted her in the best manner he could, but all was in vain.

Chap. XXXI. Of the pittiful Tale the Empress made to Valentine her Son, before his farewell into Constantinople, and what Speeches passed between him, his Father, and his Uncle.

Valentine being overcome with the Lamentations of his Mother, at last said thus unto her: O Mother, leave off, be not so careful of me, for if I escape danger, I shall gladly see you here again; in the mean space take care of my fair Clerimond, & let her be assured of my Loyalty towards her. Alas, my Son, now will it come to light that I have been basely & falsely banished my Husbands Bed and Country, but yet do thus much for me, commend me to the Emperoz, and also to my Brother King Pepin, and say unto them in my behalf, that I am an Innocent Lady. Moreover, if there be such a Man breathing, that will but once open his Mouth to the contrary, fight thou for me, and justly maintain my unspotted Chastity. Mother (quoth Valentine) all this, and more, I shall perform, and e'er many months have run their course, I shall cause my Father to Receive you again, and ask you pardon for his Rash proceedings. So now he takes his last farewell of his dear Mother, with this charge, that so soon as they were arrived, he should send pacolet to bring Tidings of all that had happened.

Now taketh he his way to the Lodging of pacolet, whither being come, pacolet made ready his Wooden-horse, and mounting Valentine behind him, turned the Win the same way he would take, and suddenly they were mounted in the Air so swiftly, that e'er the morrow at noon, they were in the sight of Constantinople. Valentine was wondrous joyful, that he was so near the place he so much desired to see, and by the help of pacolet the Enchanter, came that Night to the Great Hall, where the Emperoz accompanied with King Pepin, sat both at Supper. Valentine being come into such an unknown presence, grew very bashful, but the Green Knight sitting at the Table, with the Emperoz and King Pepin, espied Valentine, & knew him, so did King Pepin take knowledge of him likewise, saying thus unto the Emperoz; Great Emperoz, behold here one of our own blood, a valiant Knight, and your own natural Son. The Emperoz hearing this, was much amazed, and Rising from the Table, made towards him and kissed him: The Green Knight was the first that took him in his Arms, and embraced

braced him, then King pepin next, and lastly the Emperour his Father, who was greatly ashamed at his fact, in Banishing his unspotted & guiltless Wife.

It chanced so likewise, that in this presence was her old servant Blandiman, who well observed pacolet, ever since he saw him in portugal, & at last went he unto him, demanding how it fared with his old Lady and Mistress, the Lady Bellisant: Pacolet satisfied him in all his demands, so that exceeding great Joy and Gladness was heard about the City for the life of Valentine, and people came from all parts to behold the Emperour's Son, the valiant Knight. Valentine seeing such continual Recourse of all estates gathering about him, he said unto them: Lords, Knights, and Barons here assembled, who seem well pleased to behold my Person, I cannot yield unto you any other Recompence but thanks, and especially to my Uncle King Pepin, who hath ever fostered me, even from my Cradle; and had it not been for him, I had perished, by Reason of a sharp Edict published by my Father, who by the false Suggestion of a Dead Traytor, banished my Mother from his Bed and Country. Wherefore to clear her Innocency, I (as her Natural Son) offer my body in Combat against any false Traytor whatsoever.

Chap. XXXII. How Valentine and the Green Knight were taken Prisoners in the Battel of Constantinople, by the Souldan Moradin and his Men.

When the Emperour perceived his Son to be so much moved for the dishonour which was done unto his Mother the Empress, he wept for very Grief of heart, and said thus unto his Son: My Son, I have no doubt of thee to be my Son, neither of thy Manhood, in offering to Revenge her wrongs upon the Traytor that Accused her, but he is fallen already by the Sword of a Merchant, in the presence of thy Uncle pepin, myself, and divers others of high Estate. At his Death he confessed the whole Treason wrought against her, and since that time I have sent divers and sundry Messengers into all Nations, to hear Tidings what is become of her, but all in vain, for I cannot obtain my desired wish: Therefore I pray thee (if thou canst) tell me some Glad Tidings of her. Father (quoth Valentine) I know somewhat, for Yesterday I both saw her, and speak with her in Aquitain; telling him besides, that pacolet the Enchanter had suddenly brought him thither by Art, rather than good Speed. The Emperour hearing such Gladsome News from his Son, caused great Triumphs through-

throughout the City of Constantinople. When the Sarazens heard such shouts and rebelling within the City, they were greatly amazed, and every one put himself in a Readiness. The Souldan round begirt Constantino-ple famishing up all the Inhabitants most lamentable to behold. At last these Tydings came to the Ears of Valentine, and the Green Knight, who arming themselves, came into the City, and said; Lords, you well perceive the extremity in which we are in; be yet courageous and stand to it, and there is hopes of Recovery, wherefore follow my Counsel, I will forth some number of you to Forrage for some Victuals, whilst I, accompanied with 2000 men, set upon the Sarazens. They did as he advised them, and



within short time they behaved themselves so valiantly, that they gained from the Enemy 300 Chariots laden with all sorts of Victuals. Having thus seized the Victuals, they were conducting the same into the City, but the Souldan soon vexed at his Losses, got between the City and them thinking to have defeated them from Entrance, but King Pepin espied their Policy, and how they had stop'd up the passage, presently touched by
Spear

Spear, and Ran upon the Souldan so violently, that he bare the proud Pagan to the Earth, then pulling out his Sword at one Archillon, a very valiant Commander, with such fury, that he struck him out of his Saddle. Valentine and the Green Knight perceiving the great courage of King Pepin, and what fortune he had in the Field, at that present entered freshly into the Battel, and with a Resolute Courage, even in the presence of the Souldan, he hewed down the chief Standard of the Sarazens. The Standard being overthrowen, Valentine addressed him against the Souldan himself, and with his Spear he so encountered him, that he so foiled him, as he could scarcely sit his Horse. Moraldus, one of the chief Commanders was slain, and his Admiral taken Prisoner by the Green knight, with other Exploits performed on both parts. But mark what follows, these two Knights were so Triumphant in their uncertain Victory, that they pressed the Enemy so far within danger, that when they would Return they could not, & so consequently were taken Prisoners by the Sarazens, and brought before the Souldan. The Souldan having gotten them in Bands, insulted proudly over them, & with an Oath he vowed by his Mahomet, that they should never escape with Life, but gave present commandment to Raise up a Gibbet before the City Walls, and presently in the sight of all his Enemies to hang them up. Now were Valentine and the Green Knight in a great fear, but we will leave them a little, and Return to those Christians that had gotten great Booty of Victuals, yet could not get into the City therewithal, by reason that they were encountred by the Sarazens Army: In which encounter the Christians were so hard beset, that they were doubtful what should be the end of that days bickering. And at last, they espying what desperate case they stood in, with one consent issued forth Men, Women, Priests, Clerks, and all degrees. When the Pagans saw their multitudes, they were forced to Retire themselves into their Tents, and by that means the Christians obtained all their Prey of Victuals, and safely conveyed it into the City, altho' with loss of many a life. The Emperor was exceeding heavy for the loss of his Warlike Men, especially for his Son Valentine, and the Green Knight; most heavy and sad also was the worthy K. Pepin. Pacolet seeing these two Peers take the matter so heavily, Re-comforted them again, saying on this manner: Lords, leave off your Lamentations, for it shall fare better with Valentine and the Green Knight, than you can Imagine. Friend (said the Emperor) if thy words prove true, I will advance thy Estate: Sir, said he, shortly you shall make trial of my Love and Respect towards you: So he betook him to his Wooden Horse, and departed towards the Souldans Host, and came thither just

at the Instant that the Souldan came to Judge Valentine and the Green Knight to death; and how it was prevented you shall hear in the Chapter following.

Chap. XXXIII. How Pacolet, by Enchantment, delivered Valentine & the Green Knight out of the Bondage of the Souldan; and how Pacolet Couzened the Souldan when he had him upon his Horse, & instead of carrying him to Portugal, brought him into Constantinople, where he was Hanged.

ALL being assembled as aforesaid, the Souldan began thus to speak; Lords, here I present before you, these that most incumber the mighty Gyant Ferragus, and that which most you ought to respect, is, that one of them hath forsaken his Religion; & for that cause my Judgment is, that he be sent to Ferragus, & from him receive Punishment fitting his offence: Nay, said the other Sarazens, let us never do so; but let them both suffer Death to morrow morn. Lords (quoth the Souldan) let it be so. These Resolutions thus agreed upon, the Souldan entered his Pavilion to Supper, where being set, pacolet came and saluted him in the Name of Mahomet. Pacolet (quoth the Souldan) thou art welcome; how fareth Ferragus my dear Friend? Sir (said pacolet) Right well; and by me sends gladsome Tydings, if you please to hear them. Right gladly (said the Souldan) I praythe begin. Then pacolet drew him aside, out of the hearing of his Attendants, and said: Sir, know this, I am lately come out of portugal, and sent by the fair Wife of ferragus, whose heart is on fire with the love she beareth to you; long hath she concealed these her Affections, but having power no longer to keep close the Closet of her Breast, she hath committed to me her love, her trust, and what she dares not utter to any other but myself. Again, ferragus is in Aquitain, so that no opportunity should be omitted, therefore come along with me, and stay no longer to Expostulate, for upon my Horse will we suddenly arrive in portugal, and bring you to the fair Ladies sight; pacolet, thou hast more gladded my heart than all the Worldly Treasure can afford; true it is, she is the only Woman living that ever I aimed at, but never knew I how to effect my wishes: The Souldan caused pacolet to be highly feasted, so on the morrow they went towards their Journey, but mark what followed; Valentine and the Green Knight you must conceive, were both in the Pavilion, & were Right glad that they had gotten a sight of pacolet, but durst not make any shew thereof; & pacolet on the other side shewed himself a flatterer to the Souldan, in eating,

eating, drinking, and rebelling at the Souldan's Table, and in beholding the Prisoners, said thus unto the Souldan (in the hearing of all) 'Sir, how dare you venture your Noble person so near to this Green Knight, & not rather give him his desert, for of all men living, he is most dangerous: First, for the wrongs that he hath committed against his Brother Ferragus, bereaving him of Clerimond, and giving her in Marriage to a Christian Knight, next, he hath Renounced his Mahomet; these things considered, it is fit that he should dye, were there no more Men living. Friend (quod the Souldan) to morrow morning they shall both be Hanged. Then the Souldan commanded the Prisoners to be strongly guarded upon pain of Death, and so withdrawing him to his Chamber, left Valentine & the Green Knight under the conduct of those that most desired their Deaths.

In the dead time of the Night came pacolet unto Valentine & the Green Knight, and first freed them of their Bands, and by Art so Charmed all their Warders, (who slept securely) that he brought them past all danger. Having thus set them at liberty, about the dawning of the day he came to the Souldan's Tent, crying out so loud unto him, that he awaken'd him; and then pacolet began thus to say unto him: 'Sir, little appeareth your love to the Wife of Ferragus, seeing for her sake you are loath to break one hour's sleep. Whereunto the Souldan replied, 'Thou hast done well to awaken me, for I was even now in a most fearful Dream; and thus it was, Methought a Crow did bear me swiftly thro' the Air, & as he was flying away with me, another great Bird met me, and struck at me with his Bill, so hard, that the Blood forthwith issued out in abundance; now this Dream maketh me much to fear that Ferragus hath some Intelligence of my desires, and means to Revenge himself upon me. Away Sir (quod pacolet) with this childish fear, will you therefore neglect the Love of the Beauteous Lady? By Mahomet (quoth the Souldan) thou sayest truth, & calling his Chamberlain to make him ready, gave him this Charge: Sirrah, be secret, if my Uncle Bryan ask for me, tell him I am gone a little way to dispose with pacolet, then Pacolet took the Souldan behind him upon his Wooden Horse, and turning the pin, the Horse rose up into the Air so swiftly, that in a little time they were come to Constantinople, even in the Emperors Palace: The Souldan perceiving pacolet's Horse to make a stay, said thus unto him: Friend, are we at our Journeys end? Yea, and fear nothing, for we are now in Portugal, in the Palace of King Ferragus. By Mahomet (said the Souldan) the Devil hath born us here very quickly. Well (said pacolet) enter you into the great Hall of this Palace, and in the mean space I will hast into the Chamber of the Lady, & presently
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cause you to be brought unto her Bed. Go so, quoth the Souldan, for I am even well near Ravished with joy, and shall tarry each minute an hour, till I have my desire.

Now sitteth the Souldan in the Hall, attending the coming back of pacolet, while he in the mean space, maketh towards the Chamber wherein the Emperour Lay; being come to the doore, he gave a great blow against it, insomuch that the Chamberlain asked who it was that thus presumed to disturb the Emperour's Rest? Friend, quoth pacolet, fear not for I am pacolet, newly come from the Souldan's Host, where I have set at Liberty both Valentine and the Green Knight, who were condemned to dye. Besides, say unto the Emperour, that I have brought along with me the Souldan himself to be in portugal. Wherefore he may now be Revenged on him at full, for he hath most justly deserved Death. The Chamberlain told the Emperour all these Tydings, & King Pepin also; so arming themselves, they came into the Hall where the Souldan sat: The Souldan perceiving himself betrayed, cryed out with a loud Voice: Thou false Pacolet, Traytor to my Person, I vow to be Revenged upon thee for thy disloyal practice towards me, and therewithal drew out his Sword, and like a Mad Man ran up and down the Hall, striking the very stones so fiercely, that he made the fire to fly from those senceless Walls: As he was in this madding fit, the Attendants entered towards him with Torches. The Souldan espying them, defended himself so fiercely, that he slew the Squire that attended upon King pepin: This Act of his fired the Courage of the King, that he made a blow at him, and felled him to the Earth. Being fallen, they bound him hand and foot, and in the morning came Valentine and the Green Knight, who finding the Souldan there in Bands, were very joyful.

The Emperour and the King seeing Valentine, were joyful for his deliverance, giving great thanks to Pacolet for his care over his Son, & withal said, pacolet, one strain more of thy horse must I demand; you shall see (quod. pacolet) and if you will get behind me, I will instantly Transport you into hell. But Lords, let that pass, and Return unto the death of the Souldan, for if he escape your hands at this time, a world of miseries will follow: So that very hour they proceeded to Judgment, & commanded him to be hanged on the greatest Tower of the Palace, even in very sight of all his Pagan Host.

This done, the Pagans stood as Men confounded and amazed, to see him there hanging, and wondered how he came within the City, but at last Bryan his Uncle told them how he had been deceived by that Traytor pacolet. After they had long lamented the Death of the Souldan, they gather-

ed themselves to counsel, and in his stead chose his Uncle Bryan Souldan. After all these things done, pacolet took his leaue of the Emperoz, and returned into Aquitain, to comfort the Lady Clerimond, as he promis'd: but before his departure, Valentine came unto him and said: pacolet, at your coming into Aquitain, salute from me my Mother Bellisant, and my loving Lady Clerimond, my brother Orson, and the good Duke of Aquitain, with the rest of his Nobles; and above all the rest, deliver this to my Mother, by which she shall understand our whole proceedings here. Sir, said pacolet, all this I shall willingly perform: so taking his horse, he leapt upon him, and he flew up into the air, as swift as smoak.

The next morning pacolet was come to his Journeys end, and finding the Duke of Aquitain, the Empress Bellisant, Orson, and Clerimond all in safety, he saluted them all, and delivered them Letters, who said: Lady, your son Valentine greeteth you well, shewing you, that the Emperoz is right sorrowful about your banishment, and hath requited the Treason of the Traytor, with the loss of his life, wherefore he promiseth, that so soon as he can free his Country from the Incursions of the Sarazens, to come himself in person, and then forth-with bring with him the Green Kr. whom Orson had vanquished. The Lady hearing these joyful tidings suddenly fell into a swoond, but Orson perceiving it, suddenly snatched her up in his Arms, and being somewhat come to her self, she said: My child, I am justly overcome with joy, in that I understand I am proved innocent of such abominable crimes, as I was falsely accused of: but I long to see the Emperoz, whom if I might but once again behold, I should not desire longer to live; for I am well enough revenged, and my Accuser hath justly suffered most shameful death for his Treachery.

Chap. XXXIV. How King Trompart came before Aquitain, to succour Ferragus, and brought with him Adymain the Enchanter, who betray'd Pacolet, and how the King of Indie caused K Trompart's head to be struck off: And how he would have married with Clerimond; and how Pacolet was revenged on Adymain in the shape of a Woman: And how Ferragus was slain; and how Orson, and the Duke went with their Army to Constantinople, to succour the Emperor: and how Orson led along with him his Mother: and how all the Pagans were slain before Constantin. how the Emperor received his son, and his wife Bellisant.

Pacolet being arrived in Aquitain, at the same time that K. Trompart came thither to aid Ferragus against the Christians, at whose coming, Ferragus began thus to salute him: Famous King, of your coming I am
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Pacolet being arrived in Aquitain, at the same time that K. Trompart came thither to aid Ferragus against the Christians, at whose coming, Ferragus began thus to salute him: Famous King, of your coming I am
glad,

glad, hoping by your assistance to get back my sister Clerimond, and to be revenged on all those that have detained her. Ferragus (said K. Trompart) doubt nothing, for I have brought with me Adrimain the Enchanter, whose skill shall confound pacolet in his own Art. Thanks gentle King, I am much bound to you for your love, and if he can but get pacolet into my hands, I shall reward him liberally. Sir (quoth Adrimain) put your trust in me, and so taking his leave, betook him to his Magick Art. Being provided of all things, amongst the rest, he laded himself with Victuals, and took his way towards Aquitain; coming thither, he craved entrance of the gates to sell his Victuals, which was easily granted. After he had sold all, he went into the Palace, where he chanced on pacolet, whom pacolet knew well. Adrimain (quoth pacolet) you are welcome, from whence come you, and what is your Errand? Then said Adrimain, you know that long I served K. Trompart, yet by fate I am fallen into a great mischance, for one in his Court having smitten me, because I would teach him the Principles of my Art, I drew forth my knife and killed him: Now fearing death, I fled from the Court, and came towards you for succour, and will prove unto you a faithful Servant, so be pleased to accept of me. Adrimain (said pacolet) I am content, let it be so, make thee good cheer, and be merry. As they were thus in their Cups, Adrimain saw the fair Clerimond pass thro' the Hall, who presently demanded what Lady it was: Then said pacolet, It is the sister of ferragus, who must be married to a right valiant knight: Whilst they were thus in conference, came Orson unto them, and said: Gentlemen, I could gladly wish that one of your Art would shew somewhat to delight the Assembly.

At whose words, Adrimain drew up a cup above a Pillar, in such wise, that thro' the Palace (seemingly to all the Company) ran a river, furnished with all sorts of Fish, little and great: When the Beholders saw the water to come up so strongly against them, they were afraid of being drowned: pacolet beholding this feat, amongst the rest, began a Song, and in that Song a Charm, that it seemed to all the Beholders, that a hart run thro' that River, over-turning all things that stood in his way. After this hart, ran hunters with their hounds. This made many of the Beholders leap after, thinking to have taken the hart: but Pacolet, by his Art, made the hart suddenly to vanish. This sport (quoth Orson) was very well performed; and so the company breaking up, pacolet led Adrimain to his chamber, to be with him; but proved fatal, for towards midnight Adrimain so Enchanted all within the Court, and with them pacolet, that he had time to work all that he desired. Afterwards he went to-
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wards the wooden horse, and getting him, came into the chamber of Clerimond, and by Art caused her to rise, and make her ready, and setting her on the horse behind him, came unto a window, turned the pin, and suddenly he arrived in the Tent of K. Trompart. Being come thither, he cryed out aloud, saying: Great King, sleep not, but hasten you hither, and you shall see the pleasant Lady Clerimond, whom I have stolen from Aquitain, and with her Pacolet's horse. Now (said the King) I well perceive thy love; Is this the Sister of Ferragus? Yea, said Adrimain, and I have stolen her away, and also betrayed Pacolet my fellow magician, for he shall never be master of his horse again: Ay, but (said the King) art thou acquainted with the manner of his horse? A long since worthy King, and by vertue of the pin, how to govern him. Having thus made this known to K. Trompart, he thought to make experience of the horse himself, and taking Clerimond behind him, would Transport her into his own country, and there marry her.

He being thus determined, he embraced the Lady in his arms (for all this while she was not awaked out of her enchanted sleep, and set her on the horse of wood: All this Adrimain was eye-witness of, and said thus to him: My Lord, if you fail one jot of the true use of the horse, both your self, and the Lady are in very great danger: Fear not that (quoth Trompart) and so turning the pin, he mounted swiftly into the air, and before the next morning he was two hundred miles on his way, but not at his Journeys end, for now awaked the fair Lady Clerimond out of her enchanted sleep, who seeing her self so deluded, fell suddenly into a swoond: this chance struck to the heart of K. Trompart, for he was afraid, lest she had been dead, and so turning the pin, he stopt the horse in a fair green field by a fountain, then taking the Lady from the horse, he laid her on the grass, and took a little water, and cast it on her face; and the Lady recovering, made such grievous lamentations, that K. Trompart was well nigh out of his wits: Within this place there was a Shepherd, of whom K. Trompart required something to eat, which he gave to the Lady, who eat thereof, and was refreshed: and at last being come again to her speech, she weeping, uttered these words: Unhappy I above all creatures, for I have lost my joy by cursed treason. Alas Valentine my Love, cursed be he that hath separated us. Trompart hearing her so clamorous, reprobed her soundly, saying: Lady, leave off these foolish words of the christian boy, or else I shall separate thy head from thy body; is it not better for thee to be my wife, that am sole Lord of this Jurisdiction, than to have a beggarly flart-up, that hath neither Land nor Living? and with these words he would

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have killed her, but the Lady disdainning him, hit him with her fist upon the mouth.

This strange and unlookt for disdainfulness, put R. Trompart in such an anger, that he in a furious rage caught her up, and set her upon the horse again: and turning the plin the contrary way, presently, instead of carrying her into his own country, he lighted in Indie, in the midst of a market-place, kept there that day: the people seeing such a strange sight, marvelled much thereat: The Lady Clerimond, by this time, knew the horse to be pacolets, and said: Now am I falsely betrayed, and Pacolet robbed of his horse; but my dear Valentine, he it is most sticketh at my heart; for now shall I never see thee more. Trompart (thought for all this, that he had been in his own country) still beating down her piteous laments with bitter words: But this fell out ill for R. Trompart, for the King of Indie knew him well: R. Trompart being come before the K. of Indie, he bid him welcome, for you are he that put my Brother to death; wherefore I will be revenged on thee; and so caused his head to be smitten off: After the Lady was led into the King's Palace, where he sat in his own person, and he thus said: Lady, I know now of whence you are, by the bright Splendor of your face, it hath enthralled my heart; wherefore, if you please to be my wife, I will make you Queen of all this spacious continent. Sir (quoth she) you speak graciously; but to take any man to Husband, I have made a solemn vow to refrain the space of one whole year, wherefore, if it please you to let my vow be accomplished, and that time being run out, then will I willingly consent thereto: Well, said the King, thy answer is reasonable, let it be as thou hast said, perform thy vow, and remain within my Palace; and he commanded that her Attendants should be as great as if she had been his Queen, allowing her a chamber of state; into which chamber she caused to be brought the wooden horse that carried her thither; and being there, she placed it in the secretest place she could devise, and still desired she might be freed out of that danger. Now we leave her a while, and return to Pacolet, and look back also to Aquitain, and see the mourning that is made for the Lady Clerimond.

The night after Adrimain had betrayed pacolet, great lamentations were made for the fair Clerimond, throughout the city of Aquitain. Moreover, when pacolet found Adrimain absent, he doubted more, and looking round about the chamber wherein the horse stood, he suddenly missed it: all this so falling out, pacolet fell into a most grievous passion, insomuch, as had not Orson, at that instant came in, he would have killed himself.

Pacolet being thus Rescued by Orson, and beholding the general sorrow for

for the beauteous Lady Clerimond, he began thus to comfort them; Lords, I will not give over till I am revenged on that Traytor Adrimain, by whom we are all thus wronged. Herewithal he departed, and apparelled himself like a gallant Maid, and took his way to the Host of Ferragus. Being come among the Army, many pagans prayed for her love, but evermore Pacolet excused himself, and said: Pardon me, I pray you, for I am promised already to the Enchanter Adrimain, and so they let her pass on. At last Pacolet came to the Tent where Adrimain was; at which Adrimain stood amazed, and was so deeply overcome in love, that that night he retained him in his chamber; but Pacolet no whit to seek of his shifts, made somewhat squeamish, and said: My Lord, know this, I have been desired of many, but I think you the worthiest to be first served: Daughter (quoth Adrimain) fear nothing, make good cheer, and be merry, for I have a great desire to thee, and will use thee well: Now he committed the Maiden to one of his Servants, to be served with all the Dainties that could be had.

Pacolet being thus highly feasted in the Tent of Ferragus, Pacolet demanded of the Servant of Adrimain, what was become of B. Trompart, the servant said, I think he is returned again into his own country, and carried along with him the Lady Clerimond, upon a horse of wood, that my Master had given him. Pacolet hearing of this, was vext at the heart: By this time was Adrimain come unto his Tent, saying to Pacolet: Daughter, is it time to go to rest? See here is the bed we mean to sport in: Your will be done, said Pacolet: Then Adrimain put off his cloaths, and went into the bed; Pacolet so enchanted him in so strong a sleep, that awake he could not till the morning: As he dealt with Adrimain, so he did with all round about him; and putting off his womans attire, he clad himself in all the richest Cloaths that Adrimain had; and after, with his own sword, cut off his head, and bare it away with him: Having thus done, he takes his way towards the Tent of Ferragus, the which he found well guarded, and there by his Art, he also cast them all into a heavy sleep. This done, he entered the Tent of Ferragus, where he suddenly made him leap out of his bed, and cloath him: & tying him to his Girdle, made him run by his side like a Spannel, till he came to the very entrance of the Gates of Aquitain.

When Pacolet was come to the Gates of the Palace, he found there the Duke himself, accompanied with many of his Barons; and espying Pacolet, they said unto him, Where is Clerimond, that thou bringest her not again? he answered, Lords be patient a while, I cannot shew you all at once: know this, I am fully revenged on Adrimain, for here I have brought his head, and here is Ferragus, who by my Art I have also surprized, as

You may see. Then said Orson, you have done very well. Nay, Lords, more yet I have to say; which is, I have enchanted asleep the whole host of Ferragus, therefore if ever you mean to have a restless Victory, go now. What say you, my Lords? (quoth Orson) methinks pacolet hath well advised us, therefore let us go on: So they slaughtred all that lay before them, and put Ferragus into a most filthy, dark, and loathsome Prison, until their return.

After this great slaughter was ended, the Duke return'd again into Aquitain, and there commanded to have the Giant Ferragus brought before him, who was by this time awaked out of his enchanted sleep, unto whom the Duke thus said: Ferragus, if thou wilt here forsake thy Mahomet, and receive Baptism, then thou shalt live, which if thou refuse to do, thou shalt surely dye. Know, said Ferragus, I had rather suffer a thousand deaths: So he was suddenly beheaded. After his death, Orson took leave of the Duke, and went towards Constantinople, to aid his father the Grecian Emperour, and his Uncle King Pepin of France, against the unbelieving Sarazens, that had strongly besieged the City; but a little before his departure, the Duke said thus unto him: Worthy Kt. sith you are resolved to depart, I will go along with you, and bear you company; Orson was very joyful to hear him say so, and gave him thanks; so taking some small time to set things in a readiness, he committed the keeping of the City to a worthy and valiant Knight, who brought them on towards their journey. But by the way, the Empress Bellisant much lamented the hard usage of her Lord: But Orson pitying her, said: Mother, leave off your tears, and only joy in that you have been falsely accused, which now will much encrease your Honour: But I fear most our entrance into the City, which, as I hear, is much troubled with Sarazens. Nay, said Pacolet, fear not that, for I will work a device to enter, and my self will go before, and tell them so; Do so, said Orson, and tell Valentine the hard fortunes of Clerimond. Nay, quoth Pacolet, not I, I will be no bearer of such sad tidings. Now K. pepin and the Emperour being strongly besieged, were in great distress for victuals, within the City, and there was no way to be relieved but by the sword. Then Valentine accompanied with the Green Kt. and a worthy band of Soldiers, issued out of Constantinople, and charged upon 200 Chariots of Victuals of the Pagans, and recovered the same, with the death of all those that attended upon them. Having gotten this Booty, they made their return towards Constantinople, thinking to recover the City, but they were begirt round about; on the one side with the Saran, and on the other with the K. of Arabia, and thirdly with a King called Afficion

Afficion. Amongst these Champions fell out a terrible bloody Conflict, but Valentine in single fight killed the K. of Dramagen, and the K. of Clarion. The Green Kt. also behaved himself gallantly, for at one blow he struck off the Shield Arm of the K. of Morien, and before that slew his brother: but all this valour little availed; for in the end they were both taken Prisoners, and led before the Soldan: who having them in his possession, assembled 15 Pagan Kts. to adjudge them to death. Valentine being thus in hands, greatly lamented the state of the Lady Clerimond, taking leave both of his Father, Mother, Brother, and the rest; saying, I must now forsake you all, and never again behold your faces. The Green Kt. seeing him so passionate, said, Let us dye in a good cause, and welcome death.

Now was the Soldan set in his Chair of state, to proceed to Judgment: in the mean space in comes Pacolet, in the midst of the throng, not known of any, & came & stood before the Judgment Seat, & kneeling down, said: Right dear sir, know I am a Messenger from your Brother Godart, the great K. of Argier, who to your succour, hath brought along with him four mighty Kings, & by me requirerh on which side your Army they shall be ranked. Again, he prays you, if you have any Christian Prisoners, to send them him, & he will send them into his own Country, to draw the Blow; & here stands a couple of fit Instruments for that purpose. The Soldan rejoiced at these tidings, & commanded he should be highly feasted for that night: mean time Valentine and the Green Kt. were glad of Pacolet's company. In the dead time of the night, Pacolet went unto them, and unbound them, and giving to each of them a horse, bid them follow him. Being out of the Enemies reach, Pacolet said thus to them: Lords, be comforted, for in this land is assembled the Duke of Aquitain, & the Kt. Orson, the noble Empress, & the Lady Fezon: Ay, but said Valentine, why cometh not the fair Clerimond? Then answered Pacolet, she would have come, but being Sea-sick, was forced to return again to Aquitain: So Valentine questioned no farther with him. Then Pacolet advised them all to go into the City of Constantinople, & on the morrow issue out thereof with a mighty Army upon the Enemy. In the mean space I will on the other side so bestir my self, that the Host of the warlike Duke shall come up, and give a fresh Assault. Now the Soldan seeing this, shall imagine it to be his Brother, the K. of Argier. Pacolet (said Valentine) thou hast well advised, and so it shall be effected: Thus they departed, Pacolet took his way to the Duke of Aquitain, who was yet on the Sea-shore, telling him that he had been with the Host of the Soldan, & how he had freed Valentine, & the Green Kt. Then Orson answered Pacolet, there is yet one thing more to be done, & that is, that to morrow morning, we assail the Host
of

of the Sarazens on the one side, & they of Constantinople on the other, & so by that means we shall overthrow them quite. For all that comes on your part, shall be thought to come to aid the Sarazens. Then did the Duke draw up his men in order, and so kept themselves that night.

The next morning the Emperour, and K. Pepin, diligently brought forth their men to the fight, and divided their host into five Battels. The first was delivered to Valentine, the second to the Green Kt. the third to K. pepin, the fourth to Mylan Daugler, and the fifth to Sampson of Orleance, one that bare in his Banner a Bear of Silver. At break of day these powers issued out of the City, to give an assault upon the Enemy: being come into the field, they sounded their Instruments, the noise whereof so affrighted the Sarazens, that they ran out of their Tents, crying, an alarum, an Alarum. This Battel was extreame hot for the Christians that day, yet the Enemy had no cause to boast. K. pepin behaved himself so valiantly, and cryed out to his Soldiers, St. Denis, St. Denis, Then a Sarazen cryed out to the Soldan to retire, for the Safe guard of their lives, for this night have we lost our two Prisoners, & also there is coming against us a new supply of a great Army. Then the Soldan thought that he had been betray'd, but yet he made forward, and roused up their courage doubly, insomuch that they enforced the Christians to fall back, but little availed their pride: for there came upon them the Duke of Aquitain, with his forces, & assailed them so fiercely, that they put to the sword, all that did come before them, and thus the Christians conquered. When the Battle was ended, & the Christians had recovered their scattered forces, Valentine & Orson came before the Emperour, doing unto him dutiful reverence. Father (quoth Valentine) here you may behold my brother Orson, whom as yet you never knew; then the Emperour embraced him with tears, & so did the worthy K. pepin, Valentine, Orson, the Green Kt. Blandiman, & Guidard the Merchant, he that vanquished the false Arch-Priest. All these, with great Triumph, set out to visit the Tent of the Noble Empress Bellisant, and the Lady Fezon.

By this time they are come: When the Emperour saw his Wife Bellisant, he leapt off his Horse, & in tears and sighs not being able to speak, he embraced her: And Valentine and Orson bare them company in their lamentations, so did also many of the Rest there assembled. At last words took place, and the Emperour recounted all the hard dealings that had proceeded against the Empress, requiring pardon for what was past. My Lord (quoth she) since it hath so pleased the Fates to bring me unto your sight, I freely forgive all wrongs; but I long to see the Man that proved my Innocency with his Sword. Love (quoth the Emperour) this is he by whom your

Honour

Honour was preserved. Sir (quoth the Lady) you ought to be Regarded for your Service to the Empire of Greece, and the King of France: For which I make you my Chamberlain, and give you yearly a thousand Marks in Gold. Lady, I thank your Bounty, and will attend you during Life. Then said Valentine, Mother, I pray tell me some Tidings of Clerimond. Fair Son, Clerimond hath been stolen from Aquitain, and given to King Trompart, that came to the Pagans Aid. Valentine hearing this, lookt strangely upon pacolet, thinking that he had deceived him, and would have smitten him, but pacolet entreated him to be Patient, for an Enchanter hath stolen my Hoyle away; but I am Revenged on him, by Cutting off his Head. Valentine understanding these Misfortunes, and that every one was Innocent, grew into bitter Passions for his loss.

Chap. XXXV. How King Pepin took leave of the Emperor at his Departure from Greece, & how Orson went along with him, How Garnier fainting, left the Knife in the Bed, and Accused Orson falsely of Treason; and how the Knife was found in the King's Bed. And how Orson claimed Combat against his Accusers, when they would have adjudged him; and it was (by the twelve Peers of France) granted. And how Valentine, in seeking Clerimond, arrived at Antioch, and Fought with a Dragon, and in the end Slew the Dragon. And how Valentine, after the Conquest of the Dragon, caused the King of Antioch, and all his Land to be Baptized; and of the Lawless Love of the Queen Rozamond. And how the King of Antioch was put to Death for Renouncing his Mahometry, by King Brandiffer, his Wifes Father. And how the Emperor of Greece, and the Green Knight were taken Prisoners by Brandiffer.

These Wars thus ended, K. Pepin took his leave of the Emperor, and Returned into France. Orson would needs go along with his Uncle Pepin, and spend the Remainder of his days in his Service. The King was content, and said unto him, I will make you high Constable of France, moreover, if it so chance that my Young Son Charles should Decease before me, I will make you K. of France. I thank you gracious Uncle, and you shall find me faithful; and along with me will I bear the Lady Fezon: The day of taking leave came, & each embraced other with Kisses & Tears: But Valentine could not Rest, for he had lost his Love, wherefore I am Resolved to seek my love, for whom I endangered my Life, & by my Sword I won her: Her I bewail, and her will I Recover again, if she be alive; but if I find her not, short and woeful will be my days: And so he called Pacolet to him, and said, Wilt thou serve me, and be my Companion in this unknown Task? Sir, quoth he, willingly; and am Ready whensoever you shall set forward. Then Valentine made all things in a Readiness for his departure; and now hath taken Sea, and left his Country, only Accompanied with three Attendance. Now we leave him, and speak of King

King Pepin, who by this time is seated in paris, and was honourably received: But above all, the valiant Orson was highly esteemed, insomuch, that he had even all the Command of the Kingdom delivered unto him. If ought was brought before the King, Orson was the Man to be sued unto.

This Greatness of Orson fretted Haufray & Henry (of whom you have heard before) to the heart, insomuch that they plotted means how to take away his Life; saying, it was much to their Indignity, that Orson should be thus preferred before them, being Sons unto the King: Surely, says the one to the other, his Glozy cannot long endure, for his own Pride will be his overthrow. Ay, but (said Haufray) understand me, we have two Nephews, Sons unto our Elder Sister, to wit, Florence and Garnier, these are both hardy and fierce, and by them methinks some Plot might be set on foot again, they are fit Members to execute any Willany, for one is Butler unto the King, the other is Usher unto his private Chamber: Now either of these may enter into the King's Chamber, and Murder him in his bed, and such a deed being done, it will surely be laid to Orson's charge, for he only hath the Guard of his Person. If this can be effected, Orson will surely be Condemned to Death, and the Realm wholly light into our hands.

Upon this Resolution, they sent for these two Instruments of Murder, to acquaint them with the Treason, & being come, Haufray said unto them: Sirs, I and my Brother have laid a Plot to do us good, and Raise you to Honour; which thing we chose rather to offer unto you, for that you are Allied unto us, & therefore we Respect you before others. Thus it is, you know our Father the King never loved us, but hath ever Advanced Strangers, and left us slightly Regarded: These things considered, my Brother, I, and you two Brothers, (descended from our Uncle,) determine to put our dotting Father to Death, & so we may share the Land into our own Government. This thing by us first Plotted, were fittest to be executed by one of you, and I think you, Garnier, to be the fittest for it, because you being Usher in the King's Chamber, you may convey your self behind some Arras, and when the King is in bed, Murder him. This being done, when it shall be known that the King is slain, the Fact will be laid upon Orson, for he only hath the charge of his Body, and so we shall quickly get him Adjudged to Death; and as for little Charles, we shall do well enough to make him away. Uncle (said Garnier) doubt not but that I shall undertake this Enterprize. Shortly after, Garnier on a Night, when the King was at Supper, got a knife, and secretly entred into the King's Chamber, and hid himself behind the hangings. when the hour of the kings going to bed came, he was attended by his Guard, & Chamberlain, as the manner was. The K.

being laid, every man departed, save only Orson, who conferred with the King till he fell asleep: Orson seeing the King asleep, laid himself down upon a pallet by him.

The dead time of the Night was come, wherein Garnier assayed (having the knife Ready) this bloody Enterprize: But being come to the bed-side, Ready to lift up his Arm to strike the fatal stroke, he thought the K. would awaken, and so trembling for fear, laid him down by the bed-side, & durst not stir: Anon he would adventure again, but being (as before) possessed with fear, he put the knife within the bed, & then he Returned to the place from whence he came. Orson all the while slept soundly, mis-doubting nothing, but yet was troubled with a frightful dream, which was, that one would have Robbed his Wife of Honour: Also he thought, that beside a Sister, he saw two Herons fight with a Hawk, but the Hawk defended her self so valiantly, that he had slain the two Herons, had they not been assisted by a multitude of little Birds, and the Herons likewise had slain the Hawk, but that an Eagle Rescued him.

At this Dream Orson awaked, and was much astonished thereat, saying, the Gods preserve my Brother Valentine from Treasons. By this time, the day broke, & Orson softly stole out of the chamber, fearing to awaken the king. When Garnier saw Orson gone, he also followed soon after, & took his way towards the chamber, where he found the two Brethren, who long-eth to hear the News: Garnier, quoth they, tell us what is done: Lords (said Garnier) I would not do the like again for all the Gold in France, & yet I have not hurt the king, for still as I was lifting up my hand to strike, fear and horrour did affright me, that I durst no more adventure. But I have advised me of another Plot, & have of purpose left the knife in the king's bed, & this it is, we will Accuse Orson of Treason, and tell the king, there are four Traytors, whereof Orson is the Principle. Also, they will make away little Charles, and so wholly possess the Crown. To prove this, we will say, Orson hath conveyed a knife into the king's bed, if any demand how we know thereof, we will say, one of us standing at the door, heard all their conference. Garnier, said Haufray, you say well, but if Orson deny it, you and your Brother shall crabe Combat against him, say that by such adventure you come by the worst, my Brother and I shall find Men enough to Rescue you. Thus they Resolved, and thus was Treason laid the second time for Orson the Innocent. The next day the king being at Dinner, attended by Haufray and Henry, who shewed good countenance to Orson: When Garnier saw his time, he came before the king, saying: Most worthy king, your Grace hath bestowed on me many kingly labours, wherefore it is my Duty to open unto you a Treason, which lately I chanced to hear, &

to the end you may have a care of your person, I will bewray unto you the practicers thereof.

Garnier prayed to lay hands on Orson first, for he was the principal Traytor, the number in all are four; Orson was the man should kill you in your bed, with a knife; & that your Majesty may the better Credit me, this day, as they met together, I was in a certain place, and heard Orson say, the knife which you should be killed with, was hid in your bed; now if it please you to go or send, you shall find my words true. Sir (said Florent) my Brother speaketh nothing but truth.

The King hearing these words, beheld Orson with many strange countenances, and at last said: False and disloyal man, can such a thought enter into thy breast, as to take away my life, whom I have more respected than my own children! Liege, quoth Orson, be not so lightly carried away to believe this accusation, for I protest I am clear of any such thought, and shall prove in by the Author of all these Treasons. Speak no more (said the K.) for if the knife be found in the bed, I will have no further proof. So calling to his Lords, he said: Lords, I was never so suddenly confounded, as at this present. Sir (said Myllon Daugler) I know not what to say, but I cannot believe that Orson is guilty of the Treason against your Majesty: yea, but (said the K.) if we find a knife in the bed, it is an evident sign to move me to believe it; I pray let us go make trial. So the K. went himself into the Chamber, accompanied with many Witnesses, where they found the knife, as Garnier said: Alas! (said the K.) in whom may I trust, when my own kinsman seeketh my life; but I vow he shall suffer a shameful death. With that a valiant Kt. named Simon, came to Orson, which loved him well, and said: Alas! Ar, flye and save your life, for the K. has found the knife in his bed; & so the K. hath bowed your death. Orson said, I fear nothing. The K. entred the Hall where Orson was guarded with fifty one kts. & so assembling his Peers, he proceeded to Judgment. Orson being brought before the k. & his Lords, he said unto them: Worthy Lords, since my words cannot defend me, I require but the custom of your Country; which is, that when a man shall be accused of Murder or Treason, he might crave a Combat against his Enemy. Now I hold my self innocent, which I will maintain, if by your Counsels you grant me that which of right belongeth to me: and further, to clear my self, Lo here is my Gage, If I be overcome, do with my body as it pleaseth you. Garnier said to Orson, I think you had better hold your peace, for the thing being already proved, we have no reason to answer you in the Field. Ah Traytor! there is nothing yet proved, but that a man that feareth not damnation, and desireth honour, saith so. Upon these words the twelve Peers of France caused Orson to be removed out of the place, and

also the Brothers his adversaries, while in the mean space the rest disputed the question. At last it was adjudged, that Orson's demand was reasonable, and that he ought to be heard. Then were the Brothers called in again before the King; and Duke Myllon demanded of Garnier, Who were confederate with him in the King's death: Lords (quoth he) I will not betray them for all the wealth in France: Garnier (quoth he) I give Sentence, that you & your Brother take up Orson's Cage, and fight with him; for since you conceal the rest of these Furtherers, it is to be doubted, that there is malice in the plot. Orson at this Sentence rejoiced, and cast his globe down to these two Traytors, saying; Lords, here is my Globe. that I cast down upon this condition, that if my case be foul, or by them conquered, I offer my body to your will and pleasure: Kisse then, said the K. for Judgment is past: and for your farther security, it were good we had some Hostage: With that Haufray and Henry offered themselves body for body, for Garnier and his brother: And for Orson stood Myllon Daugler, & Duke Sampson. So a Months day was assigned for the Combat.

The time being come that they should fight, Duke Myllon Daugler, Sampson, Galeram, & Garvaies, brought forth Orson; for he was well beloved: when he was armed and well mounted, he rode through the City, nobly accompanied, towards the place appointed. Long he had not been there, but Haufray & Henry entered the field with Garnier & Florent, the two traytors, who greatly feared Orson, but Haufray & Henry still comforted them, promising them aid: Being thus in a readiness, the Bishop of Paris went unto them, and gave all three an oath, according to the Law of Arms, then the Bishop departed. After came the Heralds, & Serjeants of the field, to clear the place. Now Haufray had provided 3000 men hard by, & gave them command, that as soon as they heard him blow his Horn, they should set forwards towards him. This gladdened the Traytors at the heart, but it little availed them, for as soon as the Trumpets signal gave, Orson couched his Spear, and putting his Spurs to his Horse, ran upon them with fury, and lent Garnier such a stroke, that he ran through both Shield & Armour: Florent on the other side, gave Orson a blow, that he thought he had struck against a Tower: false and accursed Traytor (quoth Orson) thou hast wrongfully accused me; e'er this day pass, I shall shew thee where Loyalty doth rest: and with these words, he with his Sword smote Garnier out of his Saddle, and withal pulled off his Helm, and had cut off his head, if his Brother Florent had not rescued him.

Again, Orson made towards Garnier, and striking off his ear, said: Fair Master, I would be loath you should lose by the bargain. Then began a fresh Combate between these three Champions, Garnier having reco-

bered again his helm, came upon Orson with all his force, thinking to have left some mark of that Encounter, but had not his Brother relieved him, he had soon been slain. Thus Orson had enough to do with these two, for they were of stout Courage, and beside, they relied much upon the rescue of Haufray and Henry, but still Orson followed, and at last so wounded Garnier, that he was faine to forsake his horse. Being on the ground, he smote at Orson's horse, insomuch that he cut off one of his legs, and felled him to the earth, but Orson being light and strong, leapt from off his back, and took Garnier betwix his Arms so strongly, that he took away his Shield, and threw him on the earth, but as he would have wounded him in the belly, Florent came upon Orson, & gave him such a stroke on the helm, that he made him stagger; Orson vexed hereat, smote him so, that he overthrew his horse dead to the earth, and after took off his helm. Florent (said his Brother) lie not, return, or we shall be vanquished, and herewithal they made a fresh Encounter upon Orson, and with their Swords laid on so lustily, that the strokes entered his armour, & drew blood. Orson feeling himself wounded, smote off one of Florent's Arms: but yet he gave not over. Orson espying him making a blow at him, made as if he would have struck at Garnier, but suddenly withdrawing his arm, hit Florent in such wise, that he fell down dead to the earth, and after said unto Garnier, Traytor, thou shalt after except thou confesse the Treason. Not so, Orson, for I will be revenged on thee for my Brothers death: Haufray and Henry disliked the match, and said, one of our Nephews is slain, & if he overcome the other, he will cause him to confesse the Treason, and thereby bring us in danger. Brother (said Haufray) I will tell you what may be done, as soon as we perceive Garnier to be overcome, before he confesse any thing, we will enter into the field, and so the Treason shall not be known. Quoth Henry be it so. Now are both the Champions at it in the field. Garnier (said Orson) you see you cannot escape my hands, therefore confesse the Treason, and I will save your life. Boy (quoth Garnier) thy fair Promises are little worth, for seeing I have lost an ear, I little respect any place of honour; so rather chusing to die valiantly, or conquer thee, I set down my rest, that here I will finish my Fortunes, either to conquer or be conquered. Agreed (quoth Orson) and thy death is so welcome to thee, defend thy self, for this shall be the longest day of thy life: And thus he makes at Garnier, and by strength of arms threw him under him, and pulled off his helm. Haufray seeing there was no way but one, tried out, Orson slay him not, for we know he hath wrongfully accused you, and we will do such justice upon him, as to so foul an Act appertaineth: and Haufray said unto Garnier, Nephew, confesse the fact, and we will be a means un-

to the King for your pardon. Lord, said Garnier, I did put the knife into the King's bed; in speaking these words, Haufray drew out his sword and ran him thorow; and after said, Lords, let this Traytor be hanged on the Gallows, as he hath well deserved: but Cousin Orson, I am glad of your Victory, for it proveth you innocent: And though Garnier were my Nephew, yet I will never acknowledge him of my blood. News coming to the Lady Fezon, she was glad of Orson's Victory; King Pepin also came, saying, Nephew, you have endured dangerous wounds. Uncle, quoth Orson, the Traytors are vanquished, and Haufray made Garnier confess the Treason, & so killed him. Nephew, be ware of that Haufray, for he hath surely a hand in it, but for this time I will hold my peace. The King and Barons returned into the City of Paris, and made great joy for the Victory: Haufray and Henry speak well of him, but in their hearts they imagined mischief, which after came to light, and they had their desert, where we leave them, and return to Valentine who rode from place to place to find out Clerimond. Valentine, having travelled long, at last arrived in the City of Antioch, thinking to find Clerimond. Pacolet being with him, could speak their language, and took up their lodging in a great man's house, but the host of the house was somewhat doubtful, and when they were in the Chamber, he would hearken, inso much that at last he understood they were Christians, whereupon he went to the King of Antioch, and said: Sir, there are four Christians in my house, that have entered your land without paying of Tribute. The King said, thou hast well done, let them be brought before me; so being sent for, he said unto Valentine: Christian, I let thee understand, that there be two things, one of which you must take choice of, or else suffer death. What is it (quoth Valentine) for I will do any thing to save my life. The King said, you must either renounce your Christian Faith, or else fight with a dreadful Dragon that hath devoured many men: He is bigger then a horse, winged like a Fowl, feathered like a Griffen, the head of a Serpent, a great sting within her mouth, a fierce look, the skin covered with red scales, and she hath the feet of a Lyon. (Quoth Valentine) This is some hideous Monster, yet will I try my fortune against her, if you will but grant me one request, which is, that if I conquer this Dragon, you will then change your Mahometry, and become Christian: the King bound it with an Oath that he would, for there were never any returned alive that attempted it. Then Valentine caused a Shield to be made, and thereon fastened a great number of long spikes of Steel, a foot long, as sharp as Needles.

This Shield being made, Valentine put on Armour, and buckling on his Helm, girded his Sword to his side, took leave of his men, and mounting his horse, issued out of the City. Being gone, every one got up into their

Windows to behold the Fight. Now they of the City were faine to provide for the Dragon, either the Carcass of a Man or of a Beast, which if they failed of, none durst venture out of the City: but having eaten her prey, she returned to her Den again, without doing any harm. All such Malefactors as any way had deserved death, were continually thrown unto this fearful Monster; but if they had no Malefactors, then they went to the Sea-side for to take up Christians, and they were brought to be devoured by the Dragon.

Now by this time is Valentine within the sight of the Dragon, she seeing one come towards her, closed her wings most fiercely, casting out of her mouth smook like fire. Then he descended from his horse, and left his sharp Ar at his Saddle-Bow, and went towards the Serpent, thinking to have



smitten her, but she lifted up her paw to smite Valentine, who subtilly watching his opportunity, lifted up his Shield (armed as you have heard with spikes) and so the Serpent broached her foot upon them, who feeling her self hurt, she cryed out most horribly, drawing back, Valentine persued, but when the Serpent see him approach, she rose upon her feet, but that much fearing the Shield, she ran back. The King beholding this, said, see you: here is a most valiant Knight, whom we ought to reverence for his hardiness. Also, the fair Queen Razamond fell in love with Valentine, to see him so adventurous. Now grew the Battle fierce & dangerous between Valentine and

and the dragon, but still she fearing the pikes of the Shield, by which he held her in play, in the one hand he bare his Shield, and in the other his Sword, wherewith he gave the Serpent a marvellous blow under the ear, but with the blow he broke his sword. Valentine was in great danger when his sword was broken, for the beast grew so angry, that with her paw she went his Armour quite through. Valentine still pursuing her, & drew forth a knife, & struck it in her throat, but she little regarded it: Valentine seeing all this do nothing, ran and fetched the Ax at his Saddle-bow, & returning unto her, subtilly waiting his advantage, gave the Serpent such a blow with his Ax, that he cut off most part of her tail, whereat she roared most hideously. After this she flew at Valentine's head, & pulling off his helm, smote him to the ground, but he quickly getting up, was half amazed at his head being uncovered: Pacolet perceiving his master in distress, got into the City, and put himself in Arms, got another Helm, and bare it to his Master; Valentine perceiving him, said: Friend, I am well nigh spent, go thy ways and commend me to my friends, for if thou stay here thou must dye with me. But for all this, Pacolet came to Valentine, and delivered the Helm: the Serpent seeing that came, to Pacolet and taking him by the right Leg, pulled him down under her, giving him a push with her paw, that he felt it through his Armour, and had slain him, had not Valentine with his Ax cut off her Nose, and put out one of her eyes: these hurts made the Beast mad, and opening her Wing, she flew to the top of a high Rock: Then went Valentine to his helm, thinking to have put it on again, but suddenly the Beast came flying down, and he was fain to cover his head with his Shield, which the dragon espying, returned again to the Rock. Then Pacolet put on Valentine's Helm, and said: Sir, I am sore wounded, and must of necessity return to the City, to get some relief, for my health faileth: As soon as the dragon saw him a great way off, she assailed Valentine, and flying directly at his head, thought to have laid hold thereon, but Valentine threw his Ax so right, that he cut off one of her Wings, whereby she could not fly. The Dragon being down, Valentine quickly smote off the other wing; so that the Battel was most violent between them, insomuch that he was not able to lift up his arm any longer to wield his Ax; but leading all, he got up into a tree, to rest his wearied Limbs, and the Beast not able any more to fly, beheld him with a cruel countenance, casting out of her mouth nothing but stinking vapours. Valentine being well refreshed, came down, and went towards the Dragon, that ran so fiercely at him: Valentine still put the shield before him, & with his Ax cut her left thigh, wherewithal she fell to the Earth. Valentine still pursues his strokes, and ran his Ax so far in her throat, that she fell

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Windows to behold the fight. Now they of the City were faine to provide for the Dragon, either the Carcass of a Man or of a Beast, which if they failed of, none durst venture out of the City: but having eaten her prey, she returned to her Den again, without doing any harm. All such Malefactors as any way had deserved death, were continually thrown unto this fearful Monster; but if they had no Malefactors, then they went to the Sea-side for to take up Christians, and they were brought to be devoured by the Dragon.

Now by this time is Valentine within the sight of the Dragon, the seeing one come towards her, closed her wings most fiercely, casting out of her mouth smook like fire. Then he descended from his Horse, and left his sharp Ax at his Saddle-Bow, and went towards the Serpent, thinking to have



smitten her, but she lifted up her paw to smite Valentine, who subtilly watching his opportunity, lifted up his Shield (armed as you have heard with spikes) and so the Serpent breached her foot upon them, who feeling her self hurt, she cryed out most horribly, drawing back, Valentine persued, but when the Serpent see him approach, she rose upon her feet, but that much fearing the Shield, she ran back. The King beholding this, said, See youder is a most valiant Knight, whom we ought to reverence for his hardiness. Also, the fair Queen Razamond fell in love with Valentine, to see him so aduerturous. Now grew the Battle fierce & dangerous between Valentine and

and the dragon, but still she fearing the pikes of the Shield, by which he held her in play, in the one hand he bare his Shield, and in the other his Sword, wherewith he gave the Serpent a marvellous blow under the ear, but with the blow he broke his sword. Valentine was in great danger when his sword was broken, for the beast grew so angry, that with her paw she went his Armour quite through. Valentine still pursuing her, & drew forth a knife, & struck it in her throat, but she little regarded it: Valentine seeing all this do nothing, ran and fetched the Ax at his Saddle-bow, & returning unto her, subtilly waiting his advantage, gave the Serpent such a blow with his Ax, that he cut off most part of her tail, whereat she roared most hideously. After this she flew at Valentine's head, & pulling off his helm, smote him to the ground, but he quickly getting up, was half amazed at his head being uncovered: Pacolet perceiving his master in distress, got into the City, and put himself in Arms, got another Helm, and bare it to his Master; Valentine perceiving him, said: Friend, I am well nigh spent, go thy ways and commend me to my friends, for if thou stay here thou must dye with me. But for all this, Pacolet came to Valentine, and delibered the Helm: the Serpent seeing that came, to Pacolet and taking him by the right Leg, pulled him down under her, giving him a push with her paw, that he felt it through his Armour, and had slain him, had not Valentine with his Ax cut off her Nose, and put out one of her eyes: these hurts made the Beast mad, and opening her Wings, she flew to the top of a high Rock: Then went Valentine to his helm, thinking to have put it on again, but suddenly the Beast came flying down, and he was faine to cover his head with his Shield, which the dragon espying, returned again to the Rock. Then Pacolet put on Valentine's Helm, and said: Sir, I am sore wounded, and must of necessity return to the City, to get some relief, for my health faileth: As soon as the dragon saw him a great way off, she assailed Valentine, and flying directly at his head, thought to have laid hold thereon, but Valentine threw his Ax so right, that he cut off one of her Wings, whereby she could not fly. The Dragon being down, Valentine quickly smote off the other wing; so that the Battel was most violent between them, insomuch that he was not able to lift up his arm any longer to wield his Ax; but leaving all, he got up into a tree, to rest his wearied Limbs, and the Beast not able any more to fly, beheld him with a cruel countenance, casting out of her mouth nothing but stinking vapours. Valentine being well refreshed, came down, and went towards the Dragon, that ran so fiercely at him: Valentine still put the shield before him, & with his Ax cut her left thigh, wherewithal she fell to the Earth. Valentine still pursues his strokes, and ran his Ax so far in her throat, that she fell
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down dead. Valentine having thus overcome the Dragon, the King called unto him, and said; Of all Kings thou art the most hardy, for by thy valour is our City delivered of a fearful Enemy, that hath much damaged us. With these words they entered the City, and so to the place where a solemn Feast was held. Then the King caused Valentine's Wounds to be carefully healed. The Queen likewise highly honoured him, for she was enamoured on him so hotly, that for to gain his love, she would have wrought the death of the King her Husband.

Valentine having well refreshed himself, and healed his wounds within the City of Antioch, he said unto the King: Sir, you remember your promise, that you and your people would receive Baptism if I overcame the Dragon; you see she is slain by me only. True (quoth the King) & look what I promised, I will perform: And thereupon sent his present Edict throughout the Land, That every one should forsake his Mahomet, and be Baptized. The Queen sent for Valentine to her Chamber, who presently went to her, and said, Lady, I am come at your command, & ready to do you service. Ah! said the Lady, thou art of great hardiness, Wisdom, Strength, and all Valour belonging to a famous Warrior, happy is the Lady that shall enjoy thy love: O that I were not a Woman, or a Woman not under subjection: O I could love thee beyond humane Reason, hadst thou but so much liberty as to embrace me, or to grant me love. Lady I thank you, but you have wedded a puissant King, and him only ought you to love and honour. Knight, 'tis true, I have been ever constant to him, but since I first beheld thee, all my thoughts were captivated. Valentine seeing the Queen so eager, replied, Lady, if the King should but know or suspect me, I should surely be put to death, Again, he is old, you are young, rest your self content till I return from my intended Journey to the holy Sepulchre, and then if the King be dead, I willingly give my self unto you. Whereupon she played the part of many women that are weary of their husbands, for the love of others: even so began this Queen to practice: for one night, as the Queen was going to bed, a cup of wine was brought unto her, as the custom was, wherein she had conveyed poison, and after presented it unto the King: But he having some doubt thereof, disliked it, saying: Lady, look what drink you have brewed, either drink it your self, or tell me what you have put into it. The Lady being in this perplexity, knew not what to say, but falling on her knees craved pardon, and said that Valentine procured her to do it. I do believe thee, quoth the King, and pardon thee; so they lay together that night, but she still requested, that Valentine might be put to death: He shall as sure as I live, quoth the King. She hearing the King say so, was very sorrowful, and secretly calling to one of

her Maidens, sent to Valentine, to tell him her Will, and what the king had decreed against him: Valentine hearing of this Accusation, whereof he was innocent, said; What will not a woman undertake? Now for the love of the Queen must I depart like a Traytor, or else lay her Shame open to the world; well, I will rather depart with dishonour to my self than her. And therewithal calling up his Attendants, before the morning, he departed the City, and came to the Sea-side, where lay a Ship full of passengers ready to put off, in amongst the rest goes he and his company; so hoisting Sails they departed. On the morrow when the king was up, he caused all his Nobles to be assembled, & said unto them, Lords, I am most deceived in the man whom I most trusted, and he whom in heart I held dearest, hath betrayed me, Valentine I mean, who for to gain the lawless love of my Queen, hath stirred her up to poison me: therefore let us proceed to judge him some shameful death.

Amongst the rest, an aged wise Baron said, We have no reason to proceed against an Offender, without calling him to answer. Again, were he never so great an Offender, we ought to hear him. Whereupon Valentine was sent for, but instead of Valentine came his host, who told them Valentine was gone before break of the day from his house, but whither he knew not. The king hearing this sent forth men to follow and pursue him; but all in vain, for he was past their reach on the Sea. Shortly after that the king of Antioch was converted, his wifes Father Brandisser, a Turk, had so great a spleen against the king for altering his Religion, that he sent to him for his daughter Rozamond. When the King heard this unjust demand, he gain-said him; hereupon Brandisser came upon him with 100000 Pagans, and besieged his City. At last, within the compass of four Months, by reason he obtain'd it, took the King prisoner, and suddenly put him to death, and Crowned himself King of Antioch. This done, he returned into his Realm, but as he was on the Seas, by a Tempest he was forced into the Land of Greece, into a little City called Cretophe.

Within this City by chance was the Emperour of Greece newly arrived then, & he & the Green Knight, with some other company rid forth to sport themselves, not knowing of the Pagans being there, fell into the hands of Brandissers Soldiers, and having gotten them, hasted towards the gates of the City, thinking to have siezed the whole City, but they found it manfully defended. The men of Cretophe were very sorrowful for the loss of the Emperour and the Green Kt. At last they determined to send Letters unto Bellisant of what had happened, & to demand aid against these Pagans. The Lady receiving these Letters, was wonderous sad, and sending for their Captains, & men of War, made preparation for a speedy revenge. Also she

sent for her son Orson, and craved aid of her Brother K. Pepin: but Brandiffer had scouts abroad to give him notice of all that happened, and fearing the force of the Greeks, and their Prisoners loss, they stole to the Sea-side; so taking ship, they in a short time arrived in Lize, in which place they took a Castle, wherein was kept his two Daughters, Rozamond and Galazy, who for her beauty had been demanded of fourteen Kings: Brandiffer had yet no meaning to marry her, wherefore he caused her to be kept within this Castle, for it was the strongest in the Land; for it had a Bridge made by such cunning Art, that but one could pass at a time: at the end of this Bridge two fierce Lions stood to keep the entry into this Castle: The Lady Galazy was kept in a Dungeon, under which was a Cave, wherein the Emperour & the Green Br. with other Christians, which had been there a long time, were put. Where leave we them, and we shall shew you somewhat of the Lady Clerimond, which still remained in Indie.

Chap. XXXVI. How Clerimond after the year was past, feigned her self mad, because she would not wed the King of Indie: And of Lucar that would revenge the death of his Father King Trompart, upon the King of Indie: How King Lucar in the City of Esclariana wedded Rozamond, the fair daughter of Brandiffer; how Valentine departed from Esclardy, to breathe out Defiance; of the Answer he brought from the Indian King: how Rozamond found a way to be taken, and led unto the Indian King: how King Lucar caused Brandiffer to stay with him, and sent Valentine into Angory against King Pepin, how King Pepin took the City of Angory.

YOU have heard already of the death of K. Trompart, who stole away the Lady Clerimond upon Pacolde's horse: also how she got pardon for one whole year before she would marry. Now is the time expired, and all this while appeareth no succour for her relief, which she had so long expected, therefore (poor Lady) now is she put to her shifts, & to save her Maiden-head, she feigned her self very sick. This news came to the king's Ear, that the fair Clerimond was extream sick, at which he grew very sad, and came to visit her, at last he would have put his hand about her head, to have held it, but she refusing, took his arm away, and lift up her head her self, making signs that she would bite him, at which action he wondered, and grew much astonished thereat. After this she rowled her eyes up and down, and made grievous faces in such wise, that the king got him out of the Chamber, fearing least she should prove mad. In this manner she abode a long time, and she did act the matter so well, that within fifteen days she seemed more like a beast than a woman: she made all her Attendants forsake her, for if she caught them she would leave some mark behind her; so they left her alone, giving her meat at the Window, for none would come near her. One while she put her Smock uppermost, anon she bedaubed her face with

foot, and in this estate the king came & beheld her, lamenting her distemper, & said unto her; Lady, now is the time come that I should have had you to Wife, therefore be comforted, and be not thus impatient.

The Lady understanding him well, made shew as if she would beat him, but then she fell into a strange fit of madness: one while she would run against the Chimney, another while fall into a great laughter, then sit down and make faces, and all to preserve her Chastity. Many ways was tryed for her recovery, yet none prevailed: so leave we her in her Chamber, and return to Valentine, who with an ardent desire is robed abroad, accompanied with Pacolet, to find out the Lady Clerimond, and now were they arrived in Esclardy, which was the kingdom of Trompart, who carried away the Lady on Pacolet's Horse. Being in the City they asked for K. Trompart, so they told him he was slain by the king of Indie, and that now at this present, Lucar his Son would revenge his death upon the king of Indie, & to that end he hath newly mustered up his powers, and waged many Royal kings to undertake this War. Then spake Pacolet, who well understood the Language, saying, Of what account is this king Lucar? for the Host where he lay told him, that he should shortly marry with the daughter of Brandiffer, that was late Wife to the king of Antioch, who was slain by Brandiffer, for that he forsook his Religion.

At this Tale Valentine was much abashed, & wondred at this sudden alteration, but at last he said; what is become of the Lady that king Trompart did bring with him? Of her we hear no tydings (quoth the Host) tell me then where is king Lucar at this present, I would fain serve under him for wages, for my money is fallen short, & I have a great desire to follow the Wars. Harry, said the Host, king Lucar is in Esclardy, and there you shall find him accompanied with a huge Host, attending Brandiffer to receive his Daughter in Wedlock. Valentine knowing all this, he hoped to hear of Clerimond, & so he departed, & came to Esclardy to serve King Lucar.

Lucar being in the City of Esclardy, thither came Brandiffer with his daughter, at sight of whom K. Lucar was joyful, but the Lady was sad, for of all other she could never affect him. The Lady was led into the Hall, & there married unto K. Lucar. Valentine was abroad, & entering a Wood, he heard the crying voice of a woman, whom a Sarazen would have ravished; Valentine still heard the cry, and said unto Pacolet, Ride faster, for this cry is more and more in my ear, and we shall do a Charitable deed, in relieving the oppressed. Sir said Pacolet, meddle not in this matter, for you know not what danger you may be drawn into. Pacolet, thou speakest foolishly, for he is not worthy the name of a knight, that will not aid in time of necessity; so he rode up and down the Wood, till at last he lighted

on a Sarazen, that had gotten a Lady under him. Then Valentine said: My Friend, forsake your Lady, and betake you to your arms to combat with me, for you may well perceive she loveth you not. By Mahomet (quoth the Pagan) I accept thy challenge, and will make thee know, that in an evil hour thou camest hither. These words past, he left the Lady, and mounted his Horse, and then he took his Shield and Spear, and being prepared, they set out one at the other so fiercely, that Valentine ran his Spear quite through the body of the Pagan, insomuch as he fell down dead. Then went Valentine to the Maiden, saying: Damoysel, now is your enemy laid in the dust, but I pray shew me the cause why this man brought you in to this wood: Sir, I will tell nothing save the truth; yester-night late he came to my Father's house to lodge, and there attempting the use of my body, but could not, he departed from me, and went into the chamber of my Father, and there slew him. Afterward he thought he should surely have got his will on me in this manner as you see, from which by your Manhood I am freed, and mine honour saved; do with me what pleaseth you, for your Body hath Ransomed mine; and besides, as you have won me, I yield me to your pleasure. Damoysel, by me thou shalt receive no wrong return unto your house, and keep well your Chastity. So Valentine left the Maiden, and took his way towards Escardy.

This slain Pagan had certain attendants, which were gone to seek him, & as soon as they found him dead, they told his misfortune to the King, saying: Our Master (& your Marshal) is slain in the wood. The king was hereat right heavy, and presently sent out a search, to see if they could find the Murderer. At last Valentine & his company was taken, bound, & beaten by the king's commandment. Now in this Castle was Rozamond, who knew Valentine, & was very sorrowful for him, & anon she went unto the king, & said: Alas Sir! do this Kt. no harm, for I know, he is the valiantest Kt. breathing, he is called Valentine of France, that slew the mighty Dragon of Antioch; make much of him, & retain him into your service, for his fellow lives not in the world. Lady (said the King) divers times have I heard talk of his prowess, and I have much desired to have a sight of him: Then he called Valentine to him, & said: Kt. fear not death, but know, that above all men, I love and hold you dear, you and all yours I receive into my pay: yet one thing still remaineth, that you must do for me; Go into Indie, & desire the King thereof in my Name, telling him: that I am ready prepared to avenge the death of my Father, whom he hath shamefully put to death, except he come presently before me, with a cord about his neck, ready to receive the sentence as by me, & my Barons shall be imposed on him: If he deny it, tell him, I will shortly visit him & his Land with War, and not

not leaue one Town or Village unransacked; nor spare the life of any. Sir (said Valentine) all this I shall gladly do, altho' I know it to be dangerous.

Then M. Rozamond seeing Valentine ready to depart, entred into her Chamber, & by one of her Damselfs, sent for him; & she said to him: Kt. your are welcome, for I had a great desire to see you. So had I Lady (quoth Valentine) as great a desire to see you: For since I saw you, I understand your Husband is dead, & that you are married again. Lady you know that for the love of you (within Antioch) I sustained much danger of life: 'Tis true (said the Lady) & I acknowledge my self guilty; but now hath my Father bestowed me on K. Lucar, who is rich aboue measure, yet can I not fancy him; he is a perfidious Traytor, & since you entred this Palace, he grew so jealous of you, that he sends you into Indie, trusting you never shall return again, for never yet came any back: But I will circumvent him, & set you free from danger: Therefore know this, that not long ago, the king of Indie requested me for his Wife; & the truth is, I loved him better than this Traitor, but my Father crossed me in it: Now this K. of Indie, in token of love, sent me a Ring, which hitherto I have kept, & not shewed it to any save your self; but seeing I perceive his malice towards you, I will give you that which shall defend you from danger, and make you return a victorious knight; and tho' I am assured you have no need of my love, in that you have promised it to another Lady, yet I cannot forget my heart, which for your love lies enthralled. Therefore, when you come before the king of Indie, after reverence made, & salutations from king Lucar, next greet him from me, as my Love & secret Friend, & tell him tho' my Father hath given me to king Lucar, yet his love cannot once slip out of my breast, but still hath assurance, and full hope one day to meet with him again, when as we may enjoy our wished pleasures; tell him also, that when king Lucar bringeth his host, I will come with him; & then if there be any valour in him, he may carry me away whither he will. Now to the end he shall not find your words to be in vain, hear him this ring. Lady (quoth Valentine) for your care, love, & good will towards me, I humbly thank you & have no doubt, but that I shall deliver your message so effectually to the k. of Indie, that you shall shortly receive Answer thereof. So taking his leave, he went to k. Lucar, who allowed him ten Mariners to conduct him over an arm of the Sea, that lyeth between Esclardy & Indie; so that having a properous wind, the next morning they arrived at a Port two miles from the Palace of the k. of Indie. Then Valentine being arrived, he drew forth his Horse out of the Ship, & backed him; & said unto the Mariners, abide here till my return, for it shall not be long e'er I be dispatched. One of the Mariners said unto the rest; if he return, the Devil must

must bring him, for of fifty Messengers, not one returned again: Valentine overheard this muttering speech, but made no answer: So he took his way to the City, and when he was near the Palace, he alighted off his horse, & went to the king, who was in his Hall, richly adorned, accompanied with three kings. As he came up the Hall the king saluted him with a wrinkled brow, and thought he was a Messenger of king Lucar, & said aloud to him: Art thou not a servant of king Lucars? Sir (said Valentine) I am, & bring you tidings that will fret your heart; but on the other side, I bring such gladsome news, from the fair Rozamond, that your very soul will leap to hear it: Messenger, know this, that in the spite of k. Lucar thou shouldst have suffered death, but for the love & reverence I owe to that Lady, thou shalt receive no injury, if so be, that thou canst shew me some Token from her. Yes (said Valentine) that I shall shew, and deliver my message so, that I will not swerve from the truth thereof. That I belong to k. Lucar, you know, who by me sendeth these words; That for the death of his Father, you must come & yield to his mercy, with a Rope about your Neck, as a man guilty of so foul a deed, to receive sentence of death, according to your desert; if you refuse it (as a Messenger) I breathe defiance against you, and tell you he will shortly come, and lay waste your Land, and ransack your Dominions: Messenger, I understand thee, & let light by these his bold threats: & for answer to this matter, thou shalt have letters, wherein shall be explained how little we regard his Menaces, and also how ready I am to receive his Forces that shall come to whip my Land: Therefore leave you these proud brags, & return to that thou hast to say concerning the fair Lady Rozamond, for I most of all desire to hear from her: Sir (said Valentine) on her behalf I salute you as her love, & she sendeth you word that she is against her will married to king Lucar, whom she never loved: Again, the poor Lady is so burdened with love towards you, that if she might have her will, you should soon perceive, that none should enjoy her but your self; for she told me that she will come hither, in the company of the King her Husband, when he taketh up Arms to invade you; & then may you find other means to accomplish your desire: By Mahomet (said the Indian King) this pleaseth me extremely: Sir (said Valentine) whether these come from a true heart or no, I cannot tell; but for Token that all is true that I have said, receive here a Ring which you gave unto her, and tho' Women do prove variable, yet methinks she speaks of you from her inward breast: Friend (quoth he) this is the same Ring indeed, & my heart is overcome with joy, go thy ways in, & take thy repast, while, in the mean time, I get the letters ready, thou shalt take with thee to answer this defiance. Valentine went in as the King commanded, & was highly feasted,

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and he still demanded after Clerimond, but could not hear of her. By this time came the king, & delibered unto him the letters, & Valentine taking his leave of him, knew not that his love was in the Court, who abode many evil days, for the love of him, & still desired to hear some news of him. In the end he shall find her, but he must suffer many Tribulations, & hard Attchiments. Valentine made great hast to be freed out of Indie, and taking horse, he came to the Haven where the Marriners staid; at his coming they were amazed, & thought that he had not done his message: Masters (quoth Valentine) fear nothing, for I have accomplished my message, & I am safely returned. Then the Marriners said, we much marvel thereat. At these words he took ship, & on the morrow they were in Esclardy. Valentine made no stay, but as soon as he had descended his horse, he went to the palace of the king, finding him there accompanied with king Brandiffer, and fourteen other kings that were come to the succour of king Lucar, against the Indian king: At the return of Valentine they wondered, for the king sent him of purpose never to return, wherefore he made Valentine come before them all, to tell what tydings of his message. Valentine began thus to say, he regards not all your threats a straw: he is fierce and proud, and says if you have a mind to come to him, he hath a greater desire to receive you, than you have to come; and that you may know that I deliberate nothing save the truth, here is a letter sealed with his own hand, in which you shall understand his mind more at large. This letter being broke open, they found Valentine's words to be true. King Brandiffer understanding this answer, swore by all the Gods, that he would never return home again but with Victory, or loss of life.

The next morrow they betook them to the Seas, with an host of 200000 Sarazens. So the king carried Rozamond along with him, and they were quickly there. Being landed, they pitched their Tents in a pleasant field before the City, whilst they of the City made fast the gates. The king himself got up into a high Tower to behold their order, so by the River side he might espy their Rich Pavillions, gallantly furnished with Arms, and Streamers; then the king called unto him certain Heralds of Arms, to know by those Arms, whose Tents they were. The first (quoth they) is Brandiffers, the second is Lucars, and the third is Rozamonds with her Ladys, when the king understood that Rozamond was there, his heart leapt for joy, and said, it is no time to sleep now, he that will have the love of a fair Lady, must venture life and goods, or else he is not worthy of her that will take no pains. Hereupon resolving, he presently put his men in Battel array, and suddenly issued out of the City upon his Enemies, so that they were not in a readiness, for they little thought the Indian had been

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and he still demanded after Clerimond, but could not hear of her. By this time came the king, & delibered unto him the letters, & Valentine taking his leave of him, knew not that his love was in the Court, who abode many evil days, for the love of him, & still desired to hear some news of him. In the end he shall find her, but he must suffer many Tribulations, & hard Achievements. Valentine made great hast to be freed out of Indie, and taking horse, he came to the Haven where the Marriners staid; at his coming they were amazed, & thought that he had not done his message: Masters (quoth Valentine) fear nothing, for I have accomplished my message, & I am safely returned. Then the Marriners said, we much marvel thereat. At these words he took ship, & on the morrow they were in Esclardy. Valentine made no stay, but as soon as he had descended his horse, he went to the palace of the king, finding him there accompanied with king Brandiffer, and fourteen other kings that were come to the succour of king Lucar, against the Indian king: At the return of Valentine they wondered, for the king sent him of purpose never to return, wherefore he made Valentine come before them all, to tell what tidings of his message. Valentine began thus to say, he regards not all your threats a straw: he is fierce and proud, and says if you have a mind to come to him, he hath a greater desire to receive you, than you have to come; and that you may know that I deliberate nothing save the truth, here is a letter sealed with his own hand, in which you shall understand his mind more at large. This letter being broke open, they found Valentine's words to be true. King Brandiffer understanding this answer, swore by all the Gods, that he would never return home again but with Victory, or loss of life.

The next morrow they betook them to the Seas, with an host of 200000 Sarazens. So the king carried Rozamond along with him, and they were quickly there. Being landed, they pitched their Tents in a pleasant field before the City, whilst they of the City made fast the gates. The king himself got up into a high Tower to behold their order, so by the River side he might espy their Rich Habillions, gallantly furnished with Arms, and Streamers; then the king called unto him certain Heralds of Arms, to know by those Arms, whose Tents they were. The first (quoth they) is Brandiffers, the second is Lucars, and the third is Rozamonds with her Ladys, when the king understood that Rozamond was there, his heart leapt for joy, and said, it is no time to sleep now, he that will have the love of a fair Lady, must venture life and goods, or else he is not worthy of her that will take no pains. Whereupon resolving, he presently put his men in Batrel array, and suddenly issued out of the City upon his Enemies, so that they were not in a readines, for they little thought the Indian had been

so fierce; but love made him to do it. When the king saw Bran Fer ordering his men in Battel Array, he left his Companies, & with much diligence rode towards the Pavillions of the Ladies: When Rozamond beheld it was he, she gave all the rest of her company the slip, and ran violently into his Arms, who joyfully received her. The Indian perceiving her goodwill, got her up behind him, & putting spurs to his horse, she said, My love is fixed only on you, & for your love have I long mourned, for I never hated man so much as I did king Lucar, but now I pray thee, let me bid him farewell, & I will keep my self only to thee so long as I live. Lady quoth the Indian, doubt not, for I will not fail you, & here I vow, e'er three days pass, you shall be Queen of Indie, & Mistress of all my lands. These words passed as he was riding away with the Lady Rozamond. At last the guard of the Maidens came out of the Pavillion, & ran to the King, saying, My Lord there is evil Tidings, for this day you have lost the Lady Rozamond, for the King of Indie, your utter enemy, hath stolen her hence, & is rid away with her, wherefore quickly send your men of war & follow him, that they may save the honour of the Queen. Hold your peace, said Lucar, & talk no more, for he that hath an evil wife, it is well if he can be rid of her, altho' he had a heavy heart. After this he went to King brandisser, and said, Sir, I have small joy of your Daughter, who hath left me, to run away with a stranger, and one that is my Enemy, leaving me in reproach and shame. Faith Son (said brandisser) be not discontent at me, for to day I will be revenged on him that carryed her away, so putting spurs to his horse, rid after him, gathering a great company of men. Amongst the rest Valentine was one willing to shew his fidelity, who said unto Pacolet, now shew me by thy Art somewhat. Then Pacolet raised such a Charm, which so astonished the Indians Eye-sight, that it seemed to him there was nothing before his horse but Woods, Bushes, & great Rivers. At this he was amazed, that he made the Lady alight; when the Queen was on the ground, she thought she should have had means to save her life with the king, but valentine was so near to her, that he said unto her; Lady, aside, for you must go with me, for that you have a long time promised me your love. Ah valentine, I owe you but little love, for once I made love unto you, & you refused me, wherefore I was forced to seek another, but seeing I am crossed thus, I yield my self as your Vassal, so you will make my peace with Lucar.

Lady (said Valentine) I will do my endeavour; so he led her to K. Lucar, & said unto him; Sir, here is the Lady Rozamond your wife, whom the Indian Traytor had led away against her will, for which she was right sorrowful. Sir (quoth the Lady) he telleth you true, for for-ever as the bat-

rel was begun, I saw one come to me, thinking it had been one of your Barons, that had come to succour me, & without any further enquiry mounted on his horse: being on horseback, I perceived that then I was betrayed, so I struggled & pull'd him by the hair, & scratched him by the face, & forcing him to let me go, I have by the help of this good Knight escaped. Lady (said Lucar) you have well done: So he left the Lady, & returned to the Battel. They of Indie returned into the City, who had lost divers valiant leaders, but nothing so fretted the Ind an at the heart, as did the loss of Rozamond. Alas Lady (said he) I have failed thee in the greatest extremity, but I was surely enchanted, and on the sudden methought I saw Woods, fields, and Rivers, for he was no sooner down upon the ground, but all was plain and even way before me: valentine had great praise for getting again the Lady, and she shewed him a fair countenance, in that he had succoured her; but it was all feigned, for she hated him to death, and putting up this mischance, she watched her time, and in the end accomplished her desire, and brought her Will to Execution; for some four hours after, she rode forth pretending to take the Air, but took her way towards the K. of Indie, and had given him intelligence of her intent, willing him, that when he saw her out of danger, suddenly to come and seize her as his prisoner, and carry her away. The king did according to her direction: so suddenly issuing out of a Postern, he came and took her horse by the head, and led her into the city. Whereupon began a cry throughout the Host of King Lucar, that Rozamond was surprized, and she was past recovery. This madded Lucar at the heart, and gave out, that whosoever would recover her out of his hands, should be made a great Seneschal: Sir (said Pacolet) if you please to achieve dignity, I will so work, that we will fetch her back: Nay, said valentine, let her go. once I regained her, thinking that she would have been constant unto her husband, but all was in vain. The same day that the king had her, he lay with her, and begat a Son called Rabestre, who afterwards had the possession of Jerusalem. Lucar was right sorrowful for the loss of his wife, but brandiffer his father recomforted him, saying, Son take courage, and let us now be revenged before we depart, but it fell out otherwise, for that day came a messenger to him, who brought him contrary tydings, which was, that king Pepin of France, and the Emperour of Greece, was entered his land, burning and spoiling many places, and were now upon the siege of Angory, in which city his Lady now lay in Child-Bed: Therefore you must presently take a course to restrain the fury of the Enemy, or else endure such wack as were lamentable to behold.

Brandiffer hereat amazed, went unto his Son Lucar, and said, Son, here is evil tydings befallen, the French are entred my Land, wasting

and destroying all things, therefore I must leave you, to look after mine own; but let me tell you what you shall do; send some Kt. unto the Indian, to demand your wife, upon this condition, that you will first forget the death of your Father, and that you will raise your Siege, and be gone. Wherefore he sent valentine unto the K. of Indie, to declare this message. He being come before him, said, Great K. I am come from K. Lucar, who says, that if you will restore his wife back again, he will forget his Fathers death, and will raise up his Siege & be gone. To whom the Indian thus replied: If he will have a wife he must go seek another, for he shall never again enjoy her: valentine having thus received this Answer, he departed and came to K. Lucar, telling him all that the Indian had said, which grieved him to the very heart.

Lucar having by this means caused Brandiffer to stay with him, sent Valentine & Murgalant to raise the Siege, which King Pepin had laid against Angory. And as they were under Sail, Valentine espying a glistering, asked what it might be. Then the Mariners described the manner & fashion of it to him. Now they were come within the sight of K. Pepin's Vents, and Murgalant having viewed the Christians Forces, found the number to be great: Then said Valentine, let us secretly send to the City, to acquaint them with our coming, that to morrow Morning they may issue out at that side, and we will back them on this side, that none may escape our hands. Pacolet standing by, said, Let me be the Messenger, for I can speak their Language. Quoth Murgalant go thy way: So pacolet departed, but (he said to himself) by to morrow night you will sing another Song. Pacolet being come to the very Gates of the City of Angory, the Warders said, Whither goes this fellow? He looks as if he were some spy; 'tis true (qu. pacolet) but I am not for your hurt, therefore bring me into the Host of K. pepin, that I may speak with my Lord Orson; for I have a matter of great import to acquaint him with. So they brought him into the presence of Orson, who espying him, was right Joyful, and said: How fares my Brother Valentine? Then pacolet told him of all his adventures that he had passed since they saw one another; and also how valiantly and wonderfully he had overcome the Serpent, & how he could hear no tydings of Clerimond, and told him that they were now come to bear Arms against them, accompanied with 100000 Pagans, under the Conduct of Valentine and Murgalant, and to Chase you out of these confines, by the command of K. Lucar, & King Brandiffer; but if you will be ruled by me, I will send the Pagans short home. Qu. Orson do as thou hast said, and win immortal praise to thy Posterity: Sir, said pacolet, I am bound in all duty to your Brother Valentine, but the Service I shall now undertake, will highly please you; first

stand

stand you still upon your Guard, and in the night put all your Men in readiness, and for that Valentine shall not be suspected to be in the Plot, he shall continue in his Tent, whilst I cast a strong sleep on the Sarazens, and then may you come upon them, and slay every Man. It is good, said Orson; so Orson led him to R. Pepin, to make him acquainted with the Enterprize, & Pacolet was Royally Entertained for that time: Now Pacolet, to the end there should grow no mistrust, gave certain signs to Murgalant. Being in the City, he found out the Admiral Burnas, and Saluted him with great Reverence, and delivered unto him the Message which he had brought from Murgalant, which was, that of Brandiffer's part were now Arrived 100000, and Murgalant sends you word by me, that to morrow betimes you have your Men in a readiness, to assail the Christians on the one side of the City, and Murgalant will assail them on the other, thereby to hem them up, that not a Man of them Escape. The Admiral was glad to hear these Tydings, but he knew not how this should come to pass; Pacolet took his leave of him, & returned back to Murgalant, with Salutations from the Admiral: So Murgalant gave him Great thanks for his Message, and Pacolet departed secretly to speak with Valentine. When he was come, he said thus unto him; your Brother Orson, and your Uncle R. Pepin, greet you well by me, to whom I have related the whole manner of your coming, because I would know the Plot he had in hand, for he durst not reveal any Treason unto Valentine. The night is come, wherein this bloody Stratagem is to be Acted, so Valentine commanded the Watch to be strongly set, and would be in the Watch himself; but Pacolet found a way to prevent him, and caused him to abide in his Tent. In the dead time of the night Pacolet went amongst the Pagans, and cast such a Charm that they fell asleep. This opportunity was not let slip by R. Pepin, for he with his Army Entred the Host with 60000 fighting Men, and set fire amongst the Tents and Pavilions, and killed all that resisted: At last they came to the Tent of Murgalant, who lay asleep in his bed, and being suddenly affrighted, skiped out, and one received his body on a Dart, and so he fell down Dead.

This assault being given on the Sarazens, Pacolet said unto Valentine, seek to save your self, for the Christians have killed the watch, and entred the Host. Pacolet (said Valentine) thou hast made me break my promise with Brandiffer, for which I shall surely dye. Fear not, qu. Pacolet, for he shall do no harm. The morrow, burnas issued out of Angory, & set upon Pepin's Host, who knew not what had hapned. The Battel grew very fierce & long: At last the Admiral couched his Spear, & running against a Knight of bay, struck him stark dead; after that, with his Sword, he slew Gyrard of Paris: then came he against Robert of Normandy, and lopt off his Leg.

At last king pepin met with him, & couching his Spear, run him quite thorow: The Pagans seeing their Admiral dead, retired into the city, the Christians following them; but they defended themselves so valiantly with God, that the Christians were faine to forsake the Walls; but by some other Stratagems they won the City, putting all the Sarazens to the sword: In this City was great Riches, which was divided among the Soldiers.

Chap. XXXVII. How *Valentine* returned back to *Indie*, after the Battel, and bare with him the dead body of King *Murgalant*; how he heard tydings of his Father; how *Pacolet* freed the *Indian King*, and left *Brandiffer* in prison; how *K. Lucar* caused all that hundred that watched the *Indian*, to be drawn to death at Horses Tails; how *Valentine* and *Pacolet* departed secretly out of his Host, and went to *Angory*, and of the vision of King *Pepin*; how he went into the Holy-land with the twelve Peers of *France*, and what happened: how *Haufray* and *Henry* betrayed their Father King *Pepin*, and the twelve Peers of *France*. How *Caliph of Bendas* made truce between the *Indian*, *Lucar*, and *Brandiffer*, and how he was trapped in his own Net.

THE City being taken by the Christians, Valentine found the body of *Murgalant* in the field, caused it to be put up, & covered with black. After certain days sail, they arrived where *Lucar* & *Brandiffer* were, & in mourning brought it before the two Kings, as they sat playing at Chess: As soon as King *Lucar* saw Valentine, he said: Rt. welcome home, how fareth, & speedeth our Forces, have you put all the Christians to the worst, & taken k. pepin, and his nephew Orson? Alas (said Valentine) it is fallen out contrary; for we have lost the field, and all our men are slain: For k. Farin, who had the whole charge of the Watch, let his men sleep, & so the Christians came, & made great habock of our Army: As soon as I got Tydings hereof, I awaked my men, hoping to save them; but it was too late. In this battel was slain your Uncle *Murgalant*, whose body I have here brought: This spectacle fretted *Brandiffer* at the heart, that in madness he threw away the Chess-board, & said, surely Valentine thou wert the cause of this. Ad. Valentine, I return him the lie that says so, & I will maintain my innocency with my sword. Pay (said k. Lucar) if he had plotted any treason, he would never have come again; then *Brandiffer* commanded the body to be royally interred. This news gladdened the *Indian*, & hereupon gathering up all his forces, he issued forth of the City: The Battel being begun, Valentine threw himself into the thickest, so that none durst stand before him. At last, meeting the *Indian King*, he smote him off his horse: *Pacolet* seeing him down, Valentine & he led him to the tent of k. *Brandiffer*: when tydings came that the *Indian king* was taken, he called unto his men, saying, Follow hard, & the day is our own: So they entered the Battel, & drave the *Indians* to a retreat. When *Brandiffer* saw

they with-drew, they followed them to the gates, where fell on both sides a great slaughter: the Battel lasted so long, that it was night; so Brandiffer & Lucar betook them to their Tents, & had that the Indian k. should be brought before them: when K. Lucar saw him, he said unto him: Traytor, the end of thy life is now at hand: The Indian made shift to understand him, but said never a word. K. Lucar had no sooner ended his rough speech, but there arrived a Messenger, who said unto Brandiffer, I bring you sad tydings, O King, for pepin K. of France, hath taken your City of Angory, & put to the sword man, woman, & child: These are ill Tydings indeed (quoth Brandiffer) but seeing we have the K. of Indie in subjection, I hope shortly to free my own Country. Then he said to k. Lucar: Son, we have the k. of Indie in hold, let us make short work with him, & to morrow morning let him be hanged up; which being done, we will speed to Angory against the French, & take vengeance for these wrongs done to me: Also I have there, in a strong Castle, the Emperour of Greece, & the Greek Kt. prisoners; who at my coming shall suffer death: Valentine being present, was glad to hear of his Father; so, by a sign, he acquainted Pacolet, that he should very shortly stand in need of his Art, who inwardly bowed that he would find some means to release them out of prison: Also the Indian king looked wistfully on Valentine, and said thus to himself, Cursed be that hour that thou escapedst my hands, for had I put thee to death, these dangers had never befallen me: Then K. Lucar called a strong Guard of armed Sarazens, & said unto them, keep well this Traytor, & to morrow he shall be hanged: So they took him & brought him into one of the Pavillions, & bound him about the middle to a post, & so left him, falling to play again: Now Valentine called pacolet to him, saying; I am half in doubt, whether brandiffer have my Father in hold, for if I were assured thereof, I would not have endangered my body, as I have done in his service: But now is the time to be revenged: Sir (quoth pacolet) you have small reason to bear good will, therefore (if you please) I will find a way to free the Indian king, & to deliver brandiffer into his hands, so may your Uncle pepin hold Angory still: This (quoth Valentine) would be worthy of thanks, wherefore prosecute thy plot, that so I may help my Uncle, & deliver my Father: Pacolet having an eye to what he would do, after Supper, came among those hundred that had the charge of the Indian king: After they had made a fire without the Pavillion, Pacolet cast them all into a dead sleep: Having so done, he went to the Indian king, & said: Noble king, be glad in me, for I am Mahomet, & am come to set thee free: Then go thou to thy Palace, and bare along with thee Brandiffer, who shall not know whither he goeth. Alas! said the Indian to pacolet, taking him for Mahomet,

Mahomet, it should seem that I have deserved well at thy hands, when thou tookest so much pains to come down, & deliver me from death: King, said Pacolet, trust in me, and believe the Counsel of the Wise: Herewith Pacolet led him towards Brandiffer, causing all the Watch to fall into a dead sleep; and so Enchanted him, that he arose, made him ready, and went along with the Indian king to his Palace.

The Indian being thus set free, gave thanks to Mahomet for his delivery: then Pacolet brought him a horse, made him mount, and set brandiffer behind him, and sent them packing for Indie, and so took his leave: At last the Indian came to the gates of his own City, and calling the Porter, was instantly let in: when Rozamond beheld him, she said: Sir, you are right welcome home, but tell me how you came by my Father, that you have brought him with you? is there a Peace concluded? No (quoth the King) Mahomet delivered him into my hands, and freed me from death: So by this time ended the vigour of the Charm, and brandiffer awaking, began to say, how came I hither? some Devil hath Enchanted me: nay said the King Mahomet hath brought us hither, that you may be at peace with me: I had rather die, therefore set me free, that I may go to my Host again. Not so, for since you are here, I mean to keep you. Now the Sarazens that Guarded the Indian lay still asleep. At the break of day Lucar came to the Pavilion where the Indian lay, but when the Pagans saw him, they cry'd for mercy, for they had lost their Prisoner. Warlets, quoth Lucar, your lives shall pay for it, so he caused them to be drawn along the streets, at Horses tails, & after hanged, whereat Pacolet laughed, but, Valentine said, friend, I shall never be at ease till I have found out my Father, whom brandiffer keepeth in prison. Here Valentine and Pacolet leave the Pagans, and after travel to hear tydings of the Lady Clerimond.

Now have heard before how K. Pepin took Angory: So now will I make plain to you the manner of a Treason toward him by Haufray and Henry, It happened as the King was in his bed in Angory, he had a dream to this effect: he thought that he beheld a Mass-priest, shewing unto him divers Relicks, besides a sumptuous Sepulchre, & three times this Apparition troubled him: the morning being now come, he called before him all his Barons, & declared unto them the manner of this Dream, and said unto them: Lords, I know not what may befall, but I think it some Delusion; or else it may be that I should go visit the Holy Places without the City of Jerusalem. Then spake Orson, I will go with you if you please; & also, god. Myllon Daugler: after the Twelve Monks offered themselves unto him, to assist him in his Pilgrimage. The King hearing them so forward, gave them thanks, and calling before him Haufray and Henry, he said unto them,

you know that you are my natural Son, but yet in such time was you gotten, when I had not one foot of Land in France, therefore it is my will, you enjoy this Land of Angory, therefore keep it valiantly. Then Haufray said to Henry: You understand the king our father well, do you not? He will prefer us to strange Lands; as if we were not worthy to be his Sons: now as for his young Son Charles, he prohibeth to leave him K. of France, and we must be content with a Foreign part: Therefore be rul'd by me, & Pepin shall never return into France, to establish his heir. We will work a Plot to deliver him into the hands of the Pagans, and then shall we be Kings of France, and Emperors of Rome; all which I thirst after. Brother (qd. Henry) your words are well put together, but how shall this thing be accomplished: Haufray said, I shall tell thee how, go unto K. brandiffer, and tell him that I must have his daughter Galazy: and being with him tell him that K. Pepin and the Twelve Peers of France do determine to go to the Holy Sepulchre, & they may be easily surprized, for they take along with them but few in train. Brother this will do well, wherefore make hast to India, there shall you find Lucar and brandiffer: When you have found them, acquaint them with the Plot, & I will go along with them: So, so, (qd. Haufray) for I shall never be at quiet till this business be finished. Thus had they plotted treason against their Father, who now was on the Seas, thinking to accomplish their Pilgrimage. Henry going along with them, and Haufray hath likewise taken his way toward India. So leave we them, and return to other Matters. The Caliph of bendas being come into the host of brandiffer, and Lucar treated a truce for a month, between them and the K. of Indie: so appointing a day for to meet thereupon, the Caliph began thus to say: Lords, it is known unto you, that the Christians have won the Realm of Angory, I wonder that you continue here maintaining a needless War, and suffer the enemy to grow upon you in a place of such import: therefore list a while to what I shall declare: True it is that the King of Indie slew your father Trompart, for that he killed his Uncle, this was one for another. Therefore let the Indian deliver brandiffer, and as for Rozamond, let her be brought and set between the two kings, Lucar and the Indian: and if she will stay with the Indian, let her; if she will go with Lucar, let him receive her. This his Counsel was generally accepted, and Rozamond was brought forth, whereupon the Caliph propounded the matter for which she was called. Rozamond having heard what was said, she resolved to keep her to the Indian King; and Lucar departed very sorrowful. The same day that the Caliph made this confession, Haufray came unto the host of Lucar and brandiffer, making hast to their Pavillions, he saluted them, unto whom brandiffer said: What wind hath driven you hither?

ther? Sir (said Haufray that I have to deliver crabeth secrecie and attention. So they drew from their attendants, and then Haufray said: Lords, you know that I am Son to Pepin of France, and I also understand that you (speaking to brandiffer) have a beautiful Daughter; now if it please you to give me your daughter in marriage, I will deliver into your hands my Father, and all the Peers of France, that have so much dammified you; for know, that in the habit of Pilgrims they have taken their journey to visit the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, slenderly accompanied: Quoth brandiffer, for these tydings I will give thee my Daughter Galazy, but it must be upon condition that you renounce your faith, Yes, qud Haufray, that shall I do: When king Brandiffer saw the Treachery of Haufray, first that he would betray his Father, next forsake his Religion, he with-drew himself to advise with Lucar & the Caliph, saying to them; You see the Treasors of this man, that demandeth my daughter, how dare I trust him that seeketh the death of his Father, & ruine of the whole state of France? No, I will not make my Peace with such a homicide, I had rather see my daughters death, than give her to a vile Traytor. After these words he called to haufray, & said, Sir, I am glad of your coming, & this shall be your task, you shall go to my daughter, & bear this Letter from me, there pass away your time till we have leasure to resolve on your business. Sir (said haufray) I am ready to accomplish your demand. So he delivered him the Letter, & a 100 men to conduct him on his way: After they were at Sea, within few days they came within the sight of the strong Castle where Galazy was; when they were come to the Gate, the Porter called to 'em, saying: My Lords, you may not enter without some certain token. Porter, said haufray, tell the Lady we shall satisfy her. The Porter went to the Lady, and said, Lady, without the Gate stand a company of men that faine would enter, & as I think they are come from your Father. The Lady bid her Gentleman Asker go know what they were, who did as she commanded: as soon as she understood they came from her Father, she bound up the Lions, & opened the Gate, so haufray entered, & thought all this had been for his good; but it fell out contrary. Being entered the Castle, he was brought before the Lady Galazy, whose Beauty then amazed him, so that he was not able to speak one word. After some space of time he saluted the Lady, & said unto her; Fair Sovereign, know that for the great renown that I have heard of your admirable Beauty, I have left my Country, and passed the Seas, to acquaint your Father with that which shall make him happy; and for that you shall find me speak nothing but truth, loe, here is a Letter by me from him. The Lady taking the Letter, read it; when she had read it, she beheld haufray, saying, Wallah, I have read the Letter, & find thee

a Christian, & that thou hast sold the Life of thy father, & the twelve Peers of France; all this my father certifieth by his letter to me, & commandeth me, that I determine what shall be done to thee. Now I swear by the Law I profess, I will neither take pity, nor mercy upon such a wretch as thou art; so she called to her Officers, & committed him to prison in a dark Dungeon: haufrey seeing what had hapned, said; It is a bitter marriage to me; & so he was convey'd out of her presence. Now in the same Dungeon lay the Emperour of Greece, & the Green Knight; & when they heard they should have another fellow-prisoner, the Emperour, as soon as he came in, demanded of him whence he was? haufrey said, it is no matter of whence, but I am that unhappy haufrey, bastard son of K. Pepin. Why, qu. the Emperour, I am the Emperour of Greece, can you tell me how it fareth with my Brother K. Pepin, my two sons, and with the residue of the peers of France? Sir (said haufrey) they are in this Country of Angory, & have won the same in Battel. So leave we them in prison, and return to Valentine and pacolet.

Chap. XXXVIII. How Valentine and Pacolet came before the Castle: how Pacolet raised up the Devil, to ask his counsel about the taking of the Castle: how Brandiffer brought the Twelve Peers of France into his strong Castle, and imprisoned them: how he besieged the City of Angory. And how Brandiffer having knowledge that Lucar was Captive in Angory, made means to Valentine, to deliver him upon sufficient Ransom.

After many days sail, these two arrived at the Castle, and viewing it strangely, thought it impregnable; at last pacolet said, Sir, anon I will tell you more: so he went aside, & cast a figure, & incontinently there appeared unto him a Devil, who said unto him: Leave off your Enterprize, for the Castle is not to be taken, but by treason, so banished: Suddenly after his departure, there arose a great smook about the Castle, insomuch that Valentine lost the sight of Pacolet, & was driven into an amazement. This mist being dispersed, Pacolet came to Valentine, & said: Let us depart, for there is no way to conquer this Castle, but by treason: so they forsook the castle, & went towards Angory: Being there, they demanded things of K. Pepin, but it was answered, he was gone to Jerusalem on pilgrimage; so Valentine resolved to stay there till his Uncle returned, but all in vain; for by the Treason of haufrey, K. Pepin was surprized by Brandiffer, as you shall hear. K. pepin being come to Jerusalem, by the direction of certain guides, they were conducted to the holy places. During the time of their abode here in Jerusalem, came Brandiffer, the Indian King, & K. Lucar, (having had intelligence by haufrey) accompanied with a great Host of men, & marched so far, that then came to the K. of Jury; being come unto him,

him, he did very much marvel at their coming; & after Salutations, demanded the cause: Then spake Brandiff; Sir, know this, that by a Christian we are informed, that lately there is come into this Holy City, certain pilgrims, the one of them is K. pepin of France, the rest are the 12 peers: if it be so, we crave your aid & assistance; for they are unto us mortal enemies, & have taken from me my city of Angory, making great spoils within my Territories; wherefore we desire you, that they may be delivered into our hands, that we may proceed against them according to our law. Your demand is reasonable (qd. the K. of Jury) therefore let it be done according to your wish; for I am an enemy to all such as shall decide us, & our Religion. I will send unto the patriarch about this matter, & if he have any such French pilgrims, that he presently bring them before you. The patriarch being sent for, went unto the pilgrims, and said, friends, you must come before the K. of jury: Hereat pepin grew exceeding sad, for he thought he should lose his life; therefore said, Lords, let us here make hen-



ry our Lord, & I will wait upon him as his page, bearing his hat & Staff: Henry being too skilful in treasons, denied it, saying, here's Orson, & D. Myllon, more worthier than I, let them take it upon them. Qd. Myllon, so you please I shall do any thing. Then they took their way toward the pagan

gan that sent for them. D. Myllon took upon him the person of the K. and the K. bear his Hat & Staff. The patriarch, after he had delibered them to the K. of Jury he departed, & the K. said unto them; It is told me you are all French men, come as Spies, & amongst you is the K. of France: Sir (said one of the Company) the K. of France is not here: How! not here? (qd. the K. of Jury) if he do not shew himself openly, I will commit you all to a grievous death. Then spake Hen. It is not I. At these words Duke Myllon doubted Treason: & said: Sir, I am the K. of France, but withal suffer me to tell you a thing worthy of note; we are all Christians, & it is free for us to go safely, even by your own laws & customs of your country, paying a certain Tribute. Now this Tribute is by us daily paid & observed; therefore you do us much wrong to detain us contrary to your custom. Say what you will (qd. Jury) but to Spies there is no such priviledges allowed: & now he calleth forth brandiffer & Lucar, & said unto them, Lords, these be the christian spies, take them, & do with them as pleaseth you, then the pilgrims were laid hold on, & brandiffer said, Lords, let these be conveyed to my strongest castle, & put them into the deepest Dungeon; & let us make halt to Angory, & beat out all our enemies, after into France, to bring that to our subjection; all this may be easily effected, for we have all the peers thereof in captivity; so that there is not a man of worth to make resistance: This done, the Indian king required he might have the little prisoner to make his Dwarf of, (which was K. pepin) his request was likewise granted, so he took him with him, and loved him exceedingly.

The Indian K: taking his leave, every one of the peers lookt pittifully on K: pepin, but durst not speak to him: pepin being on his way with the Indian, began thus to lament: How unfortunate am I among them? alas, D: Myllon, it grieves me most for thee; for thy love towards me hath brought thy self in danger: But for my son Henry, I will lay my curse on thee, that refused to relieve thy father in his extremity: Farewel bertham my wife, & my young son Charles, thy case is most dangerous; for what will not Traytors attempt against thee? By this time is the Indian come home into his own land. When the Lady Rozamond saw his approach, she was right glad, & receiv'd him with kindness, at last she threw her eyes on king pepin, and demanded of the king, where he had that little man: Lady (said he) he was given me at Jerusalem, being come thither with the king of France, &c. But now let us return to speak somewhat of Clerimond, who was in the Court of the Indian king: The king's manner was to send her every Meal of the best Meat from his own Table, & one night at supper, called pepin to him, for to carry her provision, saying unto him: Go into the great chamber on the other side of the court, there shalt thou

find a foolish woman, bear this from me to her; pepin did as he commanded; but when he saw her in those rags, he said to her: I pity your distressed estate; when the Lady heard him say so, she said, Friend, pity thyself; let me alone, I am not what I seem to be: but tell me, art thou a christian? Lady (said pepin) I am; & come from the Realm of France. Then the Lady, with a smiling countenance, said: know you then king pepin, & his Nephew Valentine? Ay (qd. he) & his brother Orson, & his father the Emperour of Greece. The Lady hearing him say so, began to shed tears, & yet spake, saying, Friend, may I put trust in you? Ay, said he, even as well as if I were your natural father: Then know, all that I have done, is but counterfeit; for I am a christian, & the woful love of Valentine, that was given to him as his wife, but was betrayed, & stolen away by king Trompart: Then she unfolded the manner of all these things. When king pepin heard the lamentable adventures of this Lady, he began to weep, & said unto himself, thus: Ha! what trust is in this world: alas for this poor Lady! alas for Valentine! & yet to see it is my chance at last to find her out in this unlookt for adventure: After he had ended these lamentations, he said: Lady, now I understand whom you are, and sith you trusted me with the secrets of your heart, give me leave also a little to shew you who I am: Here you see me, and in what shape I go cloathed; yet know, I am pepin, king of France, and by disastorous chance, am fallen into this servitude: As for Valentine, he undertaketh dangerous adventures, and continueth still without taking any rest: Now I have knowledge of you, if between us we can make these things known to him, with great joy you may embrace each other: At these words the Lady swooned, but he seeing her recovered, left her, and came unto the king. So here we rest as to this matter, and return to say somewhat of brandiffer and Lucar, who are buſied in leading the twelve peers of France to prison.

brandiffer having the twelve peers in prison, and with them Haufray and Henry, the only workers of the Treason, came to his castle, where he told all the whole enterprize to his daughter, how the 12 peers fell into his hand: Having finished his Tale, he put them into the Dungeon where the Emperour, the Green kt: and Haufray lay: Henry was much troubled, that he durst not discover his mind to brandiffer; for he was the first that was led into the Dungeon, after him Myllon Daugler, who by chance fell upon haufray, which made him angry: Be not angry (qd. he) for there are many more to come down after me, to whom you must give place: haufray knew it was M: Myllon, and demanded of him, by what means he came thither? Nay (qd. myllon) I rather wonder how you came here, for I am sure we left you within the city Angory. Quoth the Traytor, I was taken for a

spy, and for that cause I am hither brought. Now are all these Lords
 sorrowing in prison; but when Hanfray understood that k. pepin was not
 among them, he seemed exceeding glad, tho' in his heart could wish his death.
 Every one looked for nothing but death, save only Orson, he bare it out com-
 fortably, saying: Lords, let us yet trust to my Brother Valentine & Pacolet,
 who by enchantment can do much, but he little knew that the Castle was
 impregnable. Brandisser, having thus made all sure, called before him his
 daughter Galazy, and said unto her: I must depart to satisfy mine Army;
 being there, I shall meet with the Indian k. & Lucar, both which will aid
 me against the French, that holdeth the City of Angory, therefore keep well
 my prisoners, And when he came unto his Army, he found Lucar ready,
 but as for the Indian k. he sent his forces, & came not himself, by reason
 that Rozamond was lately dead. The two Kings gathered up their forces,
 & took their way towards Angory, whither being come, Valentine had know-
 ledge thereof, who kept the City for k. pepin. This much amazed the no-
 ble Valentine, when he saw the tents so nigh him: at last he called Pacolet
 unto him, saying, I wonder I hear not of my Uncle pepin. Fear not (said
 Pacolet) for ere long we will hear better news; and therewithal departed
 from Angory, and never rested till he came to the Camp of k. Lucar, who
 espying him, demanded of him what news, & what was become of his Ma-
 ster, who so long time he had served? pacolet answered, Sir, he is long
 since dead, & I come to seek a new master. And Lucar, wilt thou serve me?
 Yes (qd. pacolet.) Thus was he received into his service, but he ill re-
 warded his new Master, for that same night by Enchantment, he cast Lu-
 car into such a sleep, that he carried him into the City of Angory. Valen-
 tine was right glad of this, & Lucar being placed before a fire, the enchant-
 ment ceased, & he awoke. Being awaked, he became sore astonished to see
 himself thus betrayed, and at last pacolet said unto him: Master, I am at
 your service, have you any thing to command me: at the which words Lu-
 car grew much enraged, & taking a knife, gave pacolet such a wound, that
 he fell down dead. Valentine seeing this accident was right sorrowful, and
 said: such another friend shall I never have; false Traytor (qd. he) thou
 hast slain him that was all my hope, then said Lucar, I am glad that
 Traytor is slain.

Now Valentine went towards the dead corps, & took out of his bosome
 a pair of wrighting Tables, in which was written the manner of his Art.
 These Tables had pacolet ever made Valentine acquainted withal. wish-
 ing him that if he out lived him, he should make great account of them: so
 Valentine put them up, & after made use of them: here would Valentine,
 have k. Lucar put to death, but being better advised, he was safely kept in
 prison;

prison; if so be that any worthy personage should be taken by the Pagans, then Lucar should serve for ransom of the other. Then Valentine caused the body of Pacolet to be honourably interred, whose death was bewailed of all. The next morning there arose an out-cry throughout the Army, that Lucar was gone no Man knew how: amongst the rest Brandiffer made great lamentation, till one told him he was in Angory, and how he had slain Pacolet, Brandiffer was glad Pacolet was slain, but sorry for Lucar; at last calling to him a messenger, he sent to Valentine to ask him if he would deliver Lucar for K. Pepin, the Emperour of Orson, or any other of the twelve Peers of France; the messenger departed on his way with these conditions, & coming to the City of Angory, desired to speak with Valentine: After salutations on both parts, he declared his Message from K. Brandiffer, Valentine hearing the effect of this message, was much amazed, & said to the messenger, how cometh it to pass, that Brandiffer can make choice of all these valiant men? Quoth the Messenger, I think it is not unknown, how K. pepin, accompanied with the 12 Peers of France, not long since went to Jerusalem, & having among them one Traytor, was delivered into the hands of Brandiffer, and by him taken in Jerusalem, and committed to prison, wherefore having thus related unto you the truth, said: will you change one prisoner for another? Messenger I shall give answer to thee anon: So entering into the Hall, he assembled unto him all his Council, saying to them: Thus it is, that for our Prisoner Lucar, we may have delivered us, either my Father, or my Brother, or my Uncle K. pepin: Now in this cause let us resolve what is to be done. The Lords replied, you are most bound to your naturall Father, and therefore we judge it most meet to release him. Lords, qud. Valentine you have well advised, but yet I am determined to do otherwise, for you all know that my Mother was wrongfully banished, and so in exile brought me forth, and my brother in the forest of Orleance, where we might both have been devoured of Beasts, if my Uncle Pepin had not taken me up. Thus he nourished & brought me up to man's estate: After he made me Kt. & bestowed on me many preferments; therefore I say these things considered, my Will is, that my Uncle be set free for K. Lucar; he being at liberty, we will quickly work the freedom of my Father, and all the rest. When the Barons had heard the wisdom of Valentine, they agreed all with one voice, that he had nobly spoken. Then called they to them the Messenger of brandiffer, and said: Friend, return this answer to thy Master, that we shall willingly yield the body of K. Lucar, upon condition that he deliver unto us the body of K. Pepin: So the Messenger departed; being returned home, he delivered his Message as Valentine had delivered it to him, whereupon brandiffer swore by the Gods, he should have his Request.

Chap. XXXIX. How Myllon Daugler (who was taken for the K. of France) was delivered out of Prison in lieu of K. Lucar: How Valentine and the Duke of Myllon issued out of Angory, and won the Battel from the Sarazens: How K. Pepin was delivered in Charge for the King of Indie's Marshal, left Angory, and returned into France, to succour his Wife.

BRandiffer understanding Valentine's mind, he suddenly dispatched the Messengers to his Daughter Galazy, who kept the Strong Castle, willing her to deliver unto these Messengers the K. of France, and let all the rest alone. The Maiden hearing her Father's mind, readily obeyed, calling before her the Goaler of the Prison, and commanded him to call forth the K. of France, the Goaler went to the Prison, calling for the K. of France, for I'm commanded to set him at Liberty. D. Myllon hearing him say so, could not so satisfy himself, but in doubting manner said, I am here, If it be so, I am the first that must suffer Death, I am ready to lay it down for my Religion. Sir (qd. the Goaler) 'tis no such matter, for you are to be delivered body for body, to Ransome another Pagan King which resideth in Captivity amongst the Christians. When Henry heard these words, he repented he denyed to take upon him the Person of the K. Thus D. Myllon took his leave with Tears: The Emp. of Greece said unto him, above all, I pray remember me to Son my Valen. and me too, qd. Orson, & tell him in what misery we be, requesting him either quickly to work our deliverance, or we are not able to endure our lives; Myllon comforted them all he might, and said: Lords, I will not return into France, till I see you at Liberty, & so he took his way. Being out of Prison, he went to the Lady Galazy, and did unto her reverence, which she kindly accepted, and commended him to his fortunes: So the Duke went along with the Messengers that were sent for the K. of France. When they were come before brandiffer, he said unto him: King, I would have you know wherefore I sent for you, and to that end I have appointed those Messengers that brought you hither, to conduct you into the City of Angory to Valentine, and in your stead send me back my Son Lucar, as he hath promised. Sir (qd. the Duke) all this shall be effected to your wish, and if he will not deliver K. Lucar according to your expectation, I shall willingly come again according to your Mercy. Royally spoke (qd. brandiffer) I ask no more. So the Duke took leave, and departed with the Messengers towards Angory. After few days they arrived to the Palace where Valentine lay; being in sight one of another, they kindly embraced. After D. Myllon took Valentine aside, and related to him the whole course of his Actions, & how K. Pepin was led away by the Indian King, who knew not who he was, and how that he had taken upon him the King's Name, on-

in to shield him from danger. When Valentine heard this, he thanked him for his Deed, and began to recount what a Benefit had happened to him, that he was delivered, and the rest left in Bonds; for by your true Loyalty to your Sovereign you are escaped from danger. Then Valentine caused K. Lucar to be brought before him, & said: K. Lucar, for this time you are set at liberty, but if ever you happen again into my hands, I shall remember you for the death of my friend Pacolet. These words being ended, he delivered him unto the Messengers: Now was Lucar delivered, and the D. Myllon restored in his stead: Valentine having gathered more strength, by adding unto his powers the Dukes company, they gathered all their scattered Troops into Battel-array, and with the number of 50000 fighting Men, they issued out of the City upon the Enemy. Brandiffer hearing thereof, made up against him, accompanied with twenty four Kings, his attendants, all holding him their chief Lords; but their number was so infinite, that the Christians could not come near to do them any harm.

Then valentine resolved to give a new On-set upon the Pagans, & courageously heartening his Men, he set upon that part where was brandiffer, & K. Lucar. In the thickest of this Battel, an Admiral (who was Lord of Massidon) espying a French Man making habock with his Sword among the Pagans, he made towards him, and hitting him with his Axe, he clabe his head in two pieces: He was espied by another French Cavalier, who made towards this Admiral, in the presence of Myllon Daugler, smote him dead: For the which Act of Valour Myllon knighted him, and said among them all: That he that won Valour should receive the like reward. In this manner continued the Battel all that day. At last they strove on each part which should sound a Retreat first, but neither side would yield, so that they continued all that night, making great fires to give them light. At break of day the Battel began afresh in most fierce manner, that blood ran down as water in Channels.

Valentine and D. Myllon behaved themselves right valiantly, on every side they beat down both Horse and Man. But valentine was too forward, for he entred so far into the Enemies Camp, that he came very near the Standard of brandiffer. Being there, the Indian Admiral espied him, who ran so fiercely at him, that he flew Valentine's Horse under him, who perceiving himself unhorsed, lightly got upon his feet, and with his Sword hewed out a passage, but he could not have escaped, had not D. Myllon by chance relieved him with a fresh Horse. So Valentine retired himself out of the Battel to refresh his tired Limbs. When the Indian Marshal saw their side had the worst, he by his policy withdrew his Forces, and in the night time drew out of sight; so that at last they took them to their heels and run away.

Valentine perceiving it, told M. Myllon thereof, so they determined that Valentine and his Troops should set upon the Marshal, which they did, and fell upon the Indians in such furious manner, that they, upon their first adventure, broke their Battel-array. The Marshal seeing it, thought to have fled, but Valen. meeting him at this Advantage, lent him such a rap with his Spear, as both Horse and Man fell to the Earth. Being on the Ground, the Souldiers would have killed him, had not Valentine charged them to the contrary, & committed him to the custody of four valiant knights.

In this bickering there was many Prisoners of account taken, all which Valentine sent into Angory, to be kept in safety. By this time, Brandiffer and Lucar knew that they had the worst, but they could not make resistance. At last they resolved to return again into their own Countreys, and renew their Forces afresh, so wrapping up their Ensigns, they took their way towards the Sea-coast, and the Christians followed after, killing all that withstood them: Of all the Pagans multitudes that went into the field escaped but 100 Pagans: They being gone, the Christians rifling their Tents, found inestimable Treasure, and having so done, they returned to Angory, to rest their tyred Limbs. After the Christians had won the Battel, & given burial to the Dead, Valentine commanded the Prisoners to be brought before him. Among the rest was the Martial of Indie, of whom he demanded if he would forsake his Mahometry, the Marshal answered he would sooner forsake his Life than Religion: Then M. Myllon demanded of what Countrey he was, he said, I am a Marshal of Indie, and one whom the K. loveth. M. Myllon to Valentine, we are made happy in this Prisoner, for in exchange of him we shall release K. Pepin, who was led away by the Indian King, to be his Dwarf, when we were taken Prisoners at Jerusalem: Then they demanded of him if the K. had not in his possession a Christian of low Stature: Yes, qd. he, there remaineth such a one in his Court, but not as his Prisoner, and thither was he brought when the 12 Peers of France were taken in Jerusalem. Marshal, qd. Valentine, it is he after whom we enquire, wherefore let him be brought hither, and delivered to us, and you shall be set at Liberty; for he is a Page whom I ever loved, attended on my Person. At these words the Marshal rejoiced, and sent Letters to the Indian King; who receiving them, was willing to Change, for he knew not that it was K. Pepin, and calling him before him, he said, Friend, we give you free liberty to depart my Countrey, for my Marshal being taken among the Christians, shall be surrendred in your stead: K. Pepin thanked him, & taking his leave of the K. he ran unto the Lady Clerimond, and said, Lady, take good heart, for I am set at liberty, and I will send Valentine unto you, who will soon work your release. The Lady hearing this, was very joyful,

and pepin departed with the messenger towards Angory. After some few days they arrived there, where the France-men spared for no cost, to shew their love to K. pepin. At last Valentine said: Uncle, we had good hap in taking the Marshal, & by that means procured your liberty. Nephew (said K. pepin) you above all men have most cause to rejoyce, for I bring you the happiest news that ever you heard: fair Clerimond, whom you so long have lost, is now found, & by me tenderly you hearty commendations: then he related her misfortunes, and how she had demeaned her self, to shun the love of the Indian K. Valentine hearing this joyful tydings, he uttered these words: Dear Lady, thou hast bought love at too dear a rate, & cursed I, if I prove false; and for trial hereof, I will either purchase thy freedom, or lose my life. This speech being ended, the Marshal was delibered. Then Valentine betook him to his chamber to try the tables that he took out of pacoler's bosom, when he was slain, & found every thing set down to fall out just as it was now come to pass, and taking Pen, Ink and Paper, he wrote down what there he found, and sewing it unto his doublet, for fear of losing; it stood him in great stead after, for the safe-guard of his life, as will hereafter appear. K. pepin being resident in Angory, news was brought him from his Wife berthia, that all France was doubtful of his life, and of the twelve peers of France, because they heard they were taken prisoners by the Pagans at Jerusalem. This report running for current throughout France, hath caused Arthur K. of Britain, with a puissant Host to enter the kingdom, & to win the crown of France by violence. Also the said Arthur hath committed to exile your young son Charles: When K. Pepin heard these tydings, he grew wonderfully desperate, & presently called together all his Barons, & sat in counsel what was requisite to be done in such a ploe: At last it was resolved, that king Pepin in person should depart into his own Land, to suppress the Usurper; but Valentine began to speak to the king, saying, fair Uncle, it were most requisite that I tarry here to gather new Forces, to rescue my father, & the 12 Peers of France: Do so (qd. Pepin) & if it so fall out, that I overcome, I will furnish you with fresh supplies against the Pagans, that you may with more ease compass what you intend to do.

Chap. XL. How Valentine, under the shape of a Physician, went into Indie, to see and speak with the fair Clerimond: how Valentine rode away with her: how the K. of Brittain was given to K. Pepin by treason: how Valentine took the strong Castle, and delivered his Father the Emperor, and all the rest of the prisoners: how the Emperor, Orson, and the Green Kt. kept a strong Garrison in the Castle: how Hausfray and Henry compassed the Death of their Father: how the Emperor of Greece, Orson, and the Green Kt. left the Castle, and came to the succour of Valentine in Angory: how the Christians issued out of the City

City of Angory, and bid battel to the *Sarazens*: how *Valentine* ignorantly slew his Father: and how *Myllon Daugler* returned into *France*, and *Valentine* and *Orson* into *Greece*.

YOU have heard already that *K. Pepin* brought news unto *Valentine* of the Lady *Clerimond*, which having heard, it would not out of his mind; at last he resolved to pass from *Angory* to *Indie*, accompanied with one *Squire*, & in the shape of a *Physician*, he went to Sea with the *Indian Merchants*: being arrived, he lay in the City at an *Inn-holders house*, till his *Gown*, & other *Habilliments* were in a readines: At the first entrance in this *Inn*, the *Host* asked him what he was? he said a *physician*, & can cure any manner of disease: The *Host* believed him, & his *Esq*; served him as his *Apothecary* or *Clerk*: In this manner, lying thereabout four days, he called his *Host* to him, and desired him to get a man to go about the City, to make known his Art, and see who needed help, that I may Cure them; for I would fain get something to defray my charge, while I lye in your house; but in the mean space, rather than you shall mistrust me, I will leave you a good pawn: *Harry* (sd. the *Host*) with all my heart, I accept of your gage: So *Valentine* delibered him a rich mantle, furred quire th'o' with costly furs, and bad him bring before him that party that should make known his Art: The *Host* went out, and brought him a ragged fellow: *Valentine* yet was glad of such a fellow as this, and new clothed him from head to foot, & said unto him; My friend, go thy ways into the City, and cry abut the same, that there is come a *Physician*, that can heal all diseases, even mad men or women, he will undertake to Cure

This fellow did as he was commanded, and passed from place to place, to publish this *Doctor's* skill: At last these tydings came to the *K*. because he had given out, that he could recover mad folks to their former senses: So the *King*, bearing good will to the Lady *Clerimond*, sent for this *physician*; who had before him many cripples, blind, lame, and crooked; but he left them all, and came unto the *King*; for there lay the mark at which he aimed: Being come before the king, he did his obeysance in the name of the great God *Jupiter*: and the king said unto him: Sir, you be welcome to my court, first dine, and then I shall tell you further the cause of my sending for you: The king being set and served, made *Valentine* also to be richly attended, and dinner being done, said unto him; Sir, I have a beauteous Lady in this palace, whom I would make my *Queen*, for I love her dearly, but she would not consent, til the term of one year was expired, I granted her to forbear that year, as she demanded; but at the end she was possessed with a Lunacy, insomuch that none durst come within her reach; sometimes she whistles, anon she cryeth out in a pittiful manner, another while she laugheth, & then she falleth into a flood of tears; so that my heart

is over-charged with sorrow for her: Now if your Skill extend it self to Cure her, I will give you more wealth than you can ask, for my Wife Rozamond being dead, I would make her Queen of Indie: My Lord (quoth Valentine) fear not but she shall do well; but she is the harder to be cured, in that it hath seized her so long: Again, I must be with her all night, to mark the manner of her fits: You shall (quoth the king) have one appointed to bring you thither, but look to your self, lest she harm you.

Then one who waited on the Lady, guided Valentine to her window: Now go thy way, and leave me alone. When valentine beheld her in this desperate case, he said; Alas! my love, you have bought me dear, as I have you; but by the gods, I swear, I shall never return again to France, till I have you along with me, or here lose my life: The Lady beheld him fearfully, and whatsoever came first to hand she threw at him, which much amazed him: then said valentine, is this true madness, or but feigned? Dear Love (quoth he) tell me true, I am valentine your love, for whom I have suffered great damage: Think on the Brazen-head that you gave me, or of my brother Orson, that had the string cut in his mouth, or how you were stolen away by the Enchanter Adrimain. When the Lady heard this, she fell into a swoond for joy; and being again recovered, she said: Alas! my love, how many dangers we have passed thro'; you for me, and I for you? And now behold in what baseness I have carried my self for thee. Lady, Love dearly bought is the sweetest: By this time the Trumpets sounded to bring in the King's meat for Supper; so that he said unto the Lady; My love, I will go into the palace, but after Supper I will come again; for the king knoweth not but that I am a physician, and hath sent for me to heal you: The Lady bid him go; as soon as the king saw him, he demanded of him if he could heal the Lady? Yes (quoth valentine) to morrow you shall hear her speak as discreetly as ever she did. The king was so joyful thereof, that he gave unto him a Rich Mantle, all beset with precious stones, and caused him to sit down at his own Table. After Supper, valentine said unto the king, it is necessary I have a fire all this night in the chamber where my patient is; for she will be extream sick all this night. Well sd. the king, let all things be done, spare for no cost. Now valentine takes his way to the chamber of fair Clerimond, with one that carried wood to make a fire withall; which being done, he willed every one to depart, save only his Esq; then valentine shut all the doors and windows, and said unto Clerimond; Sweet Lady, now may we embrace at our pleasure, and casting his eye aside, he espied the horse of wood, and asked her whose it was, she answered, pacolets: Then said valentine, let us hence immediately, whereunto she consented.

Valentine being somewhat acquainted with Pacolet's horse, mounted him with Clerimond & his Esq; in a Moon-shine night, & with great expedition hastened into the City of Angory; being come thither, Valentine caused the Gates thereof to be opened, & there was great joy for the Lady Clerimond. The next morning Valentine caused her to be clad in rich habiliments, and married her: by this time the K. knew of her Escape, and grew frenzied, said, Ha! thou false Enchanter, hast thou deceived me? If thou fall once



again into my hands, I will quickly bereave thee of life: And so he caused pursuit to be made after Valentine, but all in vain, for they found him not. Here leave we them. Now I proceed to tell you of K. pepin, how he hastened into France, to the succour of Bertha his wife, & to chastise the Usurper. The K. of Britain not thinking what would happen, strengthened himself with all the Forces he could, and sent out Proclamation, that all that could bear Arms should assist him into France. Hereupon Queen Bertha, with her young Son Charles, fled to Lyons to seek succour: at the same time lived a worthy and trusty Earl of Anjou, who favouring the Queen, and pitying her distress, fortified his Castle against the Britains, to whom the Queen sent 4000 horse to keep the passage. At last the K. of Britain bid the Earl give him passage into France, but answered, No: Here-

Hereupon there was appointed a band of Souldiers, to lay Siege at Angiers, but the Earl kept close within the City, and would not issue out thereof. During the Siege, K. pepin came to Paris, & there was joyfully Received: When the Queen understood he was at Paris, she hasted unto him, & when she came before him, in Tears, she said: Dear Lord, Revenge us on this Usurper. Lady (qd. the K.) fear it not. So calling about him his Counsellors, & Men of War, he made haile to furnish up his Companies, & many were there that Voluntarily offered themselves to do the K. any Service. By this time the K. of Brittain heard that K. pepin was come against him with a great Army, which feared him, & not without cause, for his friends betrayed him unto K. Pepin, to save their own Estates, & make their peace the better with the K. So resolving hereupon on a night they came to him lying on his bed, and led him perforce before K. Pepin, who presently caused his Head to be smitten off, within the City of Paris: Now they thought that betrayed him; all was well, but the K. afterwards seized all their lands into his hands.

Now was Valentine much troubled in mind, how he should free the Emperour his Father from Imprisonment, for he knew well that Castle was not to be won by War, or Policy, or by any thing but by Treason: At last he resolved on a subtle plot, & put to Sea 12 Ships, manned with 2000 men, laden with all manner of Riches, as precious Stones, and Silks; & thus as Merchants arrived they at this strong Castle.

Valentine took upon him the shape of a Merchant, setting a rich Crown on his head, and said unto his men: Be you all privately Armed within the Ships. so that none of you be seen, if the Sarazens come aboard, put them to death. Then coming toward the Castle-gate, with the Crown on his head, the Porter said, what bring you hither: Friend, said Valentine, I am a Merchant, going into Spain, and having many rich Commodities, I hear-say, that I might not pass without a Tribute, on pain of Death; said the Porter, I'll go to my Lady, and bring you an answer, so he went to Galazy, and told his message: The Lady understanding there was such precious Jewels aboard, she said unto her Seneschal: Go and receive the Tribute due to me of the Merchant, and take along with you a sufficient Company of Souldiers, lest they should offer you Injury. He did as he was commanded, and coming to the Ships, they found Inestimable Gems; in-somuch that they were Ravish'd therewith: So they taking the Value of the Tribute due to the Lady, suddenly the Christians that lay hid in the Ship set upon them, and slew them. Then Valentine said unto them; except we go forward in this Enterprize, we shall never gain the Castle: Wherefore he caused 50 of his Men to put on the Sarazens Gowns over their Armour,

and

and so lading themselves with Silks & Precious Stones, took their way to the Castle. The Porter, tyed up the Lyons, let down the Draw-bridge, & thirking after some reward, went beyond his bounds, insemuch as Valentine led him to the Ships: Being come, Valentine shewed him their dead bodys, and said: I will make you like one of these if you give me not passag: into this Castle: Sir (qd. the Porter) I shall do it: Why then (qd. Valentine) I will reward thee: Come, said the Porter, and bring all these Men whom you have Clad in the Habit of the Sarazens, for they cannot be known from them in the Castle, and let them Enter one by one, which they did: So being Entred, the Porter shewed them a secret Postern, which valentine having gotten, caused all the doys to be set open, then winded he his Horn, at which all those in the Ship hastened unto them. Then he Entred the Chamber of the Lady Galazy, who was Astonished thereat; but he said: Lady, fear not, for I have ventur'd the Seas to have a sight of your Royal Presence. Then he had him welcome, and highly feasted him. Valentine's Men having Entred the Castle, with their shouts so affrighted the Lady, that in weeping manner she said unto him: Courteous Kt. save my Virginitie. Lady, qd. he, fear not, for there is none that dares to Attempt any dishonour towards your Person. By this time all the Pagans within the Castle were slain, & Valentine hasting unto the Dungeon, did break it open, & cryed out aloud: All you that be alive come forth. Orson knowing his voice, replied: Brother you are welcome, how came you hither? Valentine said, I am come to set you at Liberty. At these words the Emp. fell into a swoond, but Orson suddenly recovered him: Then they came out of the Dungeon in Ragged Cloaths, and ill coloured faces; but the Christians rebelled for the space of 7 days in the Castle; & Orson falling in Love with Galazy, after the Death of Fezon, Married her, by whom he had a Son, named Orfayr, who after had the Empire of Constantinople.

These affairs being thus brought to an End, & Council was called, what was best to be done: At last they resolved to leave a Garrison to resist the Enemy: Some said it was sitting that Haufray & Henry should undertake this Task: But Haufray replied, Not we, for we are determin'd to go into France, to serve our Father. Musth Orson if you be so resolved, we have small reason to weep for your departure; for there is nothing but Treason in you. At these words Haufray and Henry were displeased, but they durst not shew it. At last it was Resolved that the Emperoz should take his Rest; and his Son Orson, & the Green Kt. should Remain there, to defend the Castle, whilst Valentine and the Rest addressed themselves for Angory. Now will we look into the Treason of Haufray & Henry, who being come into France, laid a Plot to take away the Life of their Father, and little

Charles his Son, with Bertha the Queen. Being come to Paris, the K. Royally feasted them, and after demanded what News of the Emperor, Valentine, Orson, and the Rest? Quoth the Traytors, they were all slain in a Battel at Angory, at which the King waxed wondrous sad. After this, they Poysoned the King and Queen. Now little Charles was still living, who, as the Gods would have it, hapned under the safe keeping of Myllon Daugler.

The King and Queen being both treacherously Poysoned, the two Traytors seemed to be exceeding sorrowful, but M. Myllon being a man of a valiant & courageous Spirit, forthwith caused a Counsel to be holden, wherein he would have Crowned young Charles K. of France, but Haufray and Henry, by Bribes so Corrupted the Lords, that Charles was held too young. Whereupon M. Myllon was committed to Prison for standing on the Childs part, and Charles held as a kitchen-boy.

A little after it hapned, that Haufray commanded Charles to turn a spit, but the Boy being full of Majesty, took up the Spit, and fell'd him to the Earth. At this, out steps Henry, thinking to smite the Child, but he being Ready to Receive him, gave him such a box on the Ear, that blood issued out at his Mouth. Then Haufray commanded his men to lay hold on him, but there came a Kt. which took Charles by the hand, & conveyed him to Paris. The Traytors perceiving Charles was gone, made out after him, but he could not be found. M. Myllon told his Wife thereof, who was sister to Charles, the Lady could not behold the same for Tears, but bowed that they should dearly pay for these Treasons, & forthwith caused Letters to be sent into Angory unto Valentine, & the 12 Peers of France. These Letters came first into the hands of Valentine, who could not chuse but weep at this Act of Villany. The Lords perceiving his Tears, asked the cause: he answered, K. Pepin & the Queen are Dead, and as for Charles, the two Accursed brothers, Haufray and Henry, have chased him out of his Country, Imprison'd M. Myllon, and all that held on young Charles's side: These are the Contents of the Letters, & the Lady that sendeth them, Requreth help to Apprehend these Rebels. These sad Tydings put them to their wits end, & lying between two extreames, knew not which way to take, for Brandiffier was daily expected with an Army of many thousands: At last Valentine said, E'er to morrow night I will set free M. Myllon, or else my skill shall deceive me: At which they laughed heartily. Valentine departed, & with Pacolets Horse he suddenly arrived at Paris, where by his Art he opened the Gates, & Released all the Prisoners, and being shewed the chamber where M. Myllon was, he entered the same, who being fast asleep, he awaked him, & said, Sir, I am Valentine, which am come to set you free. Then

he mounted him on his Horse, and had him not speak, for he was flying through the Air. The D. prayed him to pass by the castle of Angier, that he might but see his Wife, which he did, & being come to the Lady, who presently ran and kissed him, demanding of him whether he went? Lady, said he, I go to fight against the Infidels, to bring home the 12 Peers of France, with an Army, to overthrow Haufrey and Henry, and to succour Charles. Having Refresh'd themselves with Meat, they set forth towards Hungary: Being come, they came before all the Barons, who were much astonished at Valentine's Art, greatly desiring to learn it, but he would teach it no Man: Now was Brandiffer with his Host, come within a mile of Angory, & there planted his Siege. The Citizens hearing hereof, shut up their Gates, drew up their Bridges, and after got on the Walls, lying a month together without making Resistance. The Emp. hearing that Brandiffer had besieged Angory with so huge an Army, Resolv'd to leave the strong Castle to the Guard of a Kt. So the Emperor, Orson, & the Green Kt. took Shipping, accompanied with 1000 Souldiers: Being at Sea, they saw a great Fleet of Ships coming to them, & at last they found it to be a Pagan with 10000 men, going to the Succour of Brandiffer: The Christians longing to fight with the Pagans, fell upon them, so that there chanced a bloody Battel: Great valour was shown on both sides, but they knew not whether the Victory would incline. At last the Pagan Admiral encountering a Christian Kt. tumbled him over Ship-board: Orson standing by him grew angry; and taking his Axe, struck him stark Dead. This Dead discouraged the Pagans, that they withdrew themselves all that night, they having lost 15 large Ships, and 400 Men. Then the Emp. said: Lords, let us Arm our selves with such Weapons as here we have seized from the Pagans, which they presently did, but this Enterprize was fatal, for the Emp. was slain by his own Son Valentine, who took him for an Infidel, as hereafter you shall hear. But here they hoise sail again, and at last arriv'd in Angory.

After a months Siege, Valentine sent a defiance to Brandiffer, offering him Battel: The Christians divided their Battel in 10 Squadrons, whereof D. Myllon was their General: The 2. Sampson of Orleance: The 3. Earl of Vandsem. The 4. Earl of Campagne. The 5. Quintine of Norm. The 6. the D. of Burgoyne The 7. the Earl of Dampmartin. The 8. the Earl of Asserve. The 9. the Marshal of Constantinople. The 10. Valentine, who added courage to all the Rest. Being in order, they issued out of the City, to assail Brandiffer, who hath divided his Army into 12 Squadrons, and the Squadron which had the least commander, was a K. At the joyning of these Battels, a certain Pagan, that never had

been in wars, couched his Spear in his rest, & would be the fore most man, but Valentine to cool his pride, ran against him & struck him down dead: Then they fell to it pell mell, wherein the Christians belabored themselves valiantly, and the Indian King entering the Battel, made very much slaughter: but valentine missing him, gave him such a counter-buff, that he set him besides his horse.

At this present the Christians got the better, & caused the Infidels to give ground, but there came in a Sarazens Captain with 3000 men, & continued the battel hotter than before. By this time K. Lucar lighted on the Indian K., & lent him succour: now the Christians began to retire, so that they had been forced to a shameful flight, had not two valiant Kts. named Reynord of province, and Myllon of Dyon, arrived in Angory, with 700 men at Arms (the which lately had come from the holy Sepulchre, & suffered much misery) entered the field: one of them brought into France the daughter of a rich admiral, called Claradine, and caused her to be baptized. At their approach the Pagans were much discomfited, for Myllon of Dyon at his first encounter, smote K. Lucar stark dead, & at the next another K. called Rubres, which much amazed Brandiffer. At another part of the battel rushed in Raynord, and slew many of them. Valentine wondered at these two Kts. of Chivalry, & coming towards them, said, Lords, you are welcome, I pray what are you, or by what chance come you hither? Friend (quoth Reynord) we are Lords of France, & lately come from the holy Sepulchre, who hearing of these Wars, we thought it requisite to defend you against the Pagans. Quoth Valentine, once again heartily welcome; for Myllon Daugler is here, & all the Peers of France: So they joyntly rushed afresh into the battel. All this while the Indian K. had a spleen at Valentine, for his last disgrace, & finding him out, accompanied with three other kings, they so encounter'd valentine, that they did smite him & his horse to the ground: being down, he quickly recovered; & drawing his sword, defended himself there-with: but with much danger. At last Duke Myllon, Sampson, & Gervis, came unto his succour, getting a fresh horse for him: valen. being mounted, made his course against the Indian king again, and striking him down, took away his shield, which he kept (for he had lost his own.) This ended, tidings came, that a great fleet of Sarazens was coming near unto the Haven: Hereupon valentine said, Lords, let us presently go strengthen the passages. So valentine, & D. Myllon of Dyon, went to the Haven; but these were all friends and christians, amongst whom was his father, the Emperoz of Greece, of whom you shall hear more.

The Emperoz having landed his men, val. saluted him with his Spear in his rest: the Emperoz (who bare the shield of a Sarazen unknown) en-

countred with his Son: At last valen. ran his spear quite through his father's body, that he fell down dead. His father being dead, he said, Montjoy vive Greece. Orson seeing his father dead, did weep, and said, Brother, there is small conquest in this; for you have slain your Father: When he heard him say so, he fell in an extasse from his horse: To this lamentation of the two Brothers, came Rey. of prov. and Myl. of Dyon, to comfort them, saying, knights, have patience, for tears cannot recal him; Alas! said valen. what have I done? it were happy for me, if death would take me from this world; I have committed a fact, detestable both to God & men: O! what will become of me? my life have I passed away in troubles, toyments, and cares; & now to add more sorrow to my days, I have shed the blood of my dear Father. Brother Orson, take my sword, & cut off my head, that the earth may not bear so bloody a Butcher. Brother said Ori. depart not thus, but repent, & no doubt but you shall be forgiven. So comforting him in this manner, at last they got him to his horse, whereon being mounted, he ran through the Pagan troops so furiously, that all they that stood in his way perished. Now began the Battel to encrease, & king Christo. slew the Christians on every side. At last Valen meeting him, gave him such a canvasada, that he pierced his body quite through. In this battel D. Myllon of Dyon, & Reynord of Province, rushed so fierce into the Battel of the Enemy, that they were taken prisoners: yet notwithstanding their adverse fortunes, they got their liberties once again, & made Charles K. of France, with honour and joy, to the destruction of Haufray & Henry, the two notable Traitors: yet was not this fierce, long, and tedious Battel ended, for they stood it out manfully on either side. Valen being careless of life, at last met with Brandiff. who encountered each other so fiercely, that both fell to the earth: but Valentine suddenly recovering himself, took the K. such a blow, that he clabe his head. K. Baurnant seeing his brother slain, went out of the field with the Admiral of Cordes, & K. Josieth, who caused a retreat to be sounded: the Christians following, slew many thousands, & others leapt into the Sea, & drowned themselves. So the night drawing on, the Christians returned into the City: next morning, in burying the dead, there was great lamentation for the Emperoz of Greece. Then his body was royally interred in the City of Angory, but Valentine could not be comforted. The Pagans being thus twice put to the worse before Angory, Duke Myllon took his leave of Valentine, to return into France, saying, Valentine, I would I could return as swiftly back, as you brought me hither, Friend (said Valentine) I would I had never known the Art; for it hath brought nothing but shame, & vexation on me, & him an untimely death that taught it me: So that D. Myllon departed, Valen-

Valentine & Orson intended to go for Greece; but before their departure, they crowned the Green knight, King of Angory. After leave taken, Orson called the fast Galazy to him, and said, Love, I know you are with-child by me, yet I cannot wed you, for that I have another Wife; but before I go, I will make certain Lands over to you, for your maintenance: that you may hereafter live of your self. All these offers she denied, but said, she would go to Sea with him, and after confine me to some Religious house, wherein I may spend the residue of my days. Agreed (quod Orson) & so he took her with him to Constantinople. Being come thither, they send word to the Emperors of their father's death, but concealed by whom it was done: The Lady was sorrowful for her Husband, but joyed at the sight of her children. So did all the City, making great triumphs for their return. The Emperors being at Dinner, said unto her Sons: It must be agreed betwixt you who shall be Emperor. Orson replied, it appertaineth not to me to take the first place: Brother, let it be as I say, for I am beholden to you, you nothing to me: therefore take the Empire, and sway the Scepter.

At last it was agreed on, that they should jointly Govern, but Valentine continued not long in that state of Dignity; for shortly after, on a morning, he called to him Clerimond, & said thus unto her: Understand me, you know that I have slain my Father, and my conscience remaineth still troubled for that fact, and I am minded to go on Pilgrimage: Commend me to my Mother, and to my brother Orson, both which I charge you not to see, till fifteen days be passed over, and then give them this Letter; all which the Lady must consent to, although in tears.

Chap. XLI. How Valentine took leave of Clerimond before his Pilgrimage how King Hugon demanded Clerimond for his Wife, how he betrayed Orson, and the Green Knight: how Galcran delivered Letters to the Ladies, and of the grievous lamentations they made: how Bellisant and Clerimond came to know of King Hugon's Treason: how Galeron lost his head, and how Orson, and the Green Knight were set free.

Then Valentine said Lady, cease your tears, and give me your Wedding Ring: she having done so, he break it in two pieces, keeping the one half, and giving her the other: saying, my Love, keep thy half, and whatsoever you hear, believe nothing, till you see this other half, which I possess: At these words he embraced her, and wept bitterly, so departed, only one Page with him: Having long travelled, at last he came to Rome, there coming into the presence of a Hermit, he confessed the death of his Father; the Hermit seeing him so Penitent, enjoined him Penance: first change thy habit, and go barely cloathed, and 7 years lye under the stairs of thy Palace, without speaking any words; thou shalt neither eat or drink, but

but of the scraps that come from thine own Table; do this, and fear not thy sins; Sir, said Valentine, all this I will do: So after he had dined, he departed, without speaking to his servant; after this he entered into a Wood, feeding upon Roots; and he continued there so long, that he was forgotten amongst men. Orson having now read the Letter that Clerimond delivered him, wept bitterly, insomuch as the Lady said unto him: Brother, cease your lament: Alas! said Orson, I have great cause; for this letter sheweth, that my Brother will never return: Hereat the Lady



swounded, and recovering her self, she said, why hath my love hid his intent from me? but all her sorrows could not call him home again: News was spread through the City, that valentine would never return: Clerimond wailed, Bellissant complained, and Orson sighed: Now the Lady Fezon hearing Orson had got another Lady with-child, she died with grief. Being dead, Orson made a years solemnity of her Funeral, and after married Galazy, of whom you have heard before.

Now I will shew you how valentine came back to Constantinople in beggarly weeds, insomuch that he was not known, going from house to house a begging. At last he went into his Brother's Palace, about supper-

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Now I will shew you how Valentine came back to Constantinople in beggarly weeds, insomuch that he was not known, going from house to house a begging. At last he went into his Brother's Palace, about supper-

time.

time, and those that waited at the Table, beat him away: Ors. seeing them so churlish, had them let him alone, for I am willing all poor men should be Relieved, for my brother valen. his sake, that so we may hear tydings of him: After this, they brought him meat & wine; but he epping a basket, wherein the scraps were put, eat thereof, which amazed the beholders: Night being come, the serbitors asked Ors. if he would let that counterfett abide in his Palace: Ay (qd. Ors.) for it may be for some vow which he hath made: Thus abode val. & made his bed of straw under the stairs. On the morrow Ors. passing by, gave him money, after came his Mother, and his wife Clerim. and they gave him money, saying How can you endure this nakedness? this night you shall have cloaths provided for you: They being gone, he gave his money to two poor men standing by him, who scoffed at him for his Labour: next day at dinner, they gave him varietie of meats, which he refused, & made signs for the Alms basket: Ors. to try him further, caused some of the best meat to be put therein, but he would not touch it: Then said Ors. surely this is some vow he hath made to the Gods: Thus did valen remain within the Palace, without being known, that all men thought him dead: In these days there was a K. of Hungaria, named Hugon, who heard that valen. had given over the Empire of Greece to his brother Ors. this Hugon came to Constanti. & was honourably received. After his arrivall, he came to the Lady Clerim. & said, I am K. of Hunga. & have no wife, & for that purpose I am come hither to crave your love; I know that Valen. is dead, or else that he will never return: Dear Lady grant me thy love, & thou shalt be Q. of hunga. Sir (qd. the lady) I thank you for your kingly proffer, but to be your Wife, I cannot; for sure my Valen. liveth, & for 7 years I will every day expect his return: besides, when I make choice of a Husband, my brother Ors. & the Green kt. must know; for without their leave I will never marry. Then he went towards Ors. & demanded of him, if he heard any news from his brother, Great K. (qd. Ors.) no, but he left me a Letter, & certified me, that he is gone to exile, & beareth about him the half King he was married withal; the other half he left with his wife, charging her, that she believe nothing of him, till she see the other half which he possessed. The gods be his good speed, qd. Hugon, for he was a worthy kt. But one thing qd. Hugon, have I more to acquaint you with; I am determined to take a journey to Jerusalem, to visit the holy shrine, so you would bear me company. With all my heart, qd. Ors. but let us go to Angory, & take with us the Green kt. who is K. thereof: It shall be so qd. hugon: So Ors. taking leave of his Mother, & his wife Galazy, came to Angory, & was received with great joy. Having feasted there, they took their way to Jerusalem: Being come into the city,

City, while they were beholding divers Monuments, hugon stole away from them to the K. of Jury, & said; I have a message to deliver worth your attention. There is newly arrived here 2 worthy Kts. that are your greatest Enemies, for they slew K. brandi K. Lucar, & your brother k. of Indie. When Rabestre heard all that he could say: he was sorry for the death of his brother, & said to hugon: Can you deliver me these two kts? Yea, said the Traytor. So you will give me their gold seals: Sir, quod he, them & much more will I give you: Then hearken, send to the Patriarch's house, & he will tell you where they are: The k. soon sent out 800 armed men, & found them at dinner, then they took them & brought them to the king: False Enemies, quod the k. to our lives & religion. my heart even leaped, for joy that I have got you tell me what is your names? my name is Orson, & this is the Green kt. You are the men I look for & there is another called Valen. had I him also, I would use you all alike, then he caused their seals to be taken away, & given to hugon, & they to be cast in a dungeon, & be fed only with bread and water. Now all this while they knew not what was become of hugon; for they thought he were slain by the Sarazens, while he was plotting with another traitor in the City, called Galaran, & began thus to salute him; Galeian, my desire is to imploy you secretly in a matter of import. & I will reward thee sufficiently. Uncle (quod Gal.) fear me not, I know your drift, you would obtain fair Clerim. True, said hugon, therefore let us write a Letter in the name of Ors. and we will seal it with his seal, and the Letter shall be thus framed.

' Orson, by the power of the gods, Emperoz of Greece, unto the thrice
' Renowned Sovereign Lady my Mother unto you my Love Galazy, &
' my Sister Clerimond, greeting. Know this, that many things are
' fallen out contrary to our expectation, which are here set down, Requir-
' ing nothing but patience; Ladies, know that I found my Brother Va-
' lentine on his Death-bed at Jerusalem, and a little before his last Gas-
' he charged me to salute Clerimond, in his Name, and command her,
' that if ever she marry again, she take some Prince to her Husband; the
' cause why he sent not the half King, was, for that it was stolen from him
' in his sickness.

This Letter thus finished, Hugon wrote another Letter saying:

' Right well-beloved Sister, we have said enough about my Brother Va-
' lentine, but now we wish you, for the great beauty wherewith you are a-
' dozed, first to accomplish the desire of the Dead; secondly, to increase
' your Honour, we advise you to match with Hugon King of Hunga-ry, as
' you will avoid our displeasure. And for further Authority, we have sealed
' these Letters with our own seals. Again know, that we cannot yet re-
Z turn,

turn, for great Wars is fallen between the Infidels and Christians. So we leave you to the Tuition of the gods.

These Letters being sealed, Hugon gave them to Galeran to bear to Constantino. himself following after: By this means thinking to get the Lady. Galeran being in Constant. delivered his Letter to the Lady Bellifant, who commanded that he should be highly feasted. Afterward she called one to Read them, & Valentine lying in the Hall, heard the contents thereof: Being Read, the Ladys grew exceeding sorrowful for the Death of Valentine, but especially the Lady Clerimond, pitiously lamenting his misfortunes, saying: How unhappy amongst Women am I? Alas Val. why went I not with thee, to see thy body laid up safe in the Earth? Unkind Brother, & the Green Kt. Why are you two such Enemies, as to with me to Marriage so soon after Valentine's Death, seeing I have lost such a noble, magnanimous, & loving Kt. the mirror of Chivalry, the rose of Honour, the example of Courtesie, & the patron of Truth? Death, hast thou not one Dart left to shoot at this poor breast? For seeing my Life is nothing but sorrow, I will never have other Husband, but in sorrow will I spend the Rest of my days. All this did Valentine behold. which he pittied; but fearing to be known, he buried it in silence. Bellifant seeing Clerimond thus violent, said: Daughter, be patient, he was my Son, and I sorrow for him at my heart, but when I consider he cannot be fetched back, therewith I pass it over, & rather think on what your Brother, and my Son Orson doth advise you unto. Good Mother (qd. the Lady) say no more. for I shall never marry, and therewith went weeping to her Chamber, and Valentine lay under the stairs, musing how these Treasons should come about. Some four days after, k. Hugon came to Constant. & was Received with great Honour; but Clerimond shewed him no favour. Being there, he said unto the Emperess: You understand of the Death of your Son, for whom I am sorry: But it is agreed upon that I shall marry the Lady. Sir, qd. Clerimond, I am not willing to marry you, nor any other: All this Treason Valentine heard. But in the end, the matter was so urged, that Hugon had the Lady, which much increased his joys, but they were short.

valentine having ended his Orisons to the Gods, the Oracle made answer to him thus: Valentine get thee out of the City, and without the Gates is a Pilgrim, put on his Meads, having them on, get thee to thy Palace, & there before all commers reveal the Treason practised against thy Love, for in this disguise thou canst not be known. Valen. coming to the Court in this disguise, in the presence of the Ladies, and amongst them was the Traytor Hugon, even he that uttered such Reproachful Words against valen. Now valentine came to Bellifant, saying: Lady I beseech you shew me the wise
of

of valen. I would fain do a message to her: Wouldst thou? said the Lady, I am she that thou desirest to see: Then thus, I have lately seen thy Love valen. that sendeth salutations, willing me to say, that within three days he will be with you. Pilgrim (qd. the Lady) advise well thy self what thou speakest, for I heard my Love is Dead. Lady (qd. the Pilgrim) believe it not, for I protest to deliver my body to Death, if it be not true what I have said: Hugon hearing these words related to the Ladies, secretly mounted his horse, and never Returned back. The Ladies on the other side, were amazed at the Pilgrims tale, and offered to feast him, but he would not, only he said to them: Ladies, pardon me, I pray, for I have certain companions in the Town, which I must needs visit, therefore I request your pardon: yet Clerim. would gratifie him for his News, giving him Money, which he bountifully bestowed again upon the Servants. Presently after it was demanded, what was become of K. Hugon? A Damoysel standing by, said, I saw him just now take horse; but where he is I know not.

Upon these words Galeran came in, and they asked him what was become of his Uncle Hugon? who making no Reply, Bellisant grew incaged, and said, you shall not escape till you have Related the Treason Hugon hath practised against us. Then Galeran said, Lady have mercy on me, & I shall tell you all. Say on, I pardon thee. My Uncle is guilty of Treason; & has sold to the Pagans, the Emper. Orson. and the Green Kt. Which tale frightened the assembly, but Galeran was presently hanged. Then val. leaving the habit of a Pilgrim, returned again to the Palace. Clerim. espying him, said Poor Man! Where have you been? Methinks you seem displeased, because I said I will not marry. Valen replied, not at all, but lest her & yet she not contented at his defection, caused a costly Quilt to be brought for him to lodge upon, but he refused.

K. Jury having Orson & the Green Kt. in hold, caused them to be brought before him, & said unto them: Lords, you see, you are at my Mercy, wherefore I vow you shall never escape with life, except you will resign back unto me the City of Angory. Orson replied, We will never consent hereto, except thou give K. Hugon unto us. The K. said unto them, Speak nothing of him, for he is the Traytor that delivered you into my hands, & he hath your Seals. Orson & the Green Kt. marvelled much thereof, & swore they would be Revenged on him.

Now it fell out, that these Prisoners were content to yield to the King's command, & so returned to Const. Being come home, Clerimond told him, that she had heard Tydings of valentine, which Rejoiced Orson, who lying with his Wife that night, got a Son called Morant, who after Ruled Angory. Not long after Orson raised an host of Men to go for Angory,

which when Hugon heard, he offered him the same City, and four horse-load of Gold, & if any there durst call him Traytor (Orson Excepted) he would fight with him; the Green Kt. accepted his Challenge; so arming themselves, the Green Kt. came first in the List. All things set in order, they encountered each other with their Spears, next with their Swords; at last the Green Kt. gave Hugon such a stroke on his Helm, that he cut part of his head, even off at his shoulders; so that he fell into a swoond, thus was the Green Kt. Conqueror. Hugon reviving again, desired a Confessor, & unfolding the Treason, dyed in the Place. Orson nevertheless caused his body to be sumptuously Interred. At last Hugon's Treason, being blown abroad, they tendered the City to the Emp Ors. This being Ended, they returned into Constant. But Clerimond marvelled he heard not of valentine.

Chap. XLII. How at the end of seven Years, Valentine Dyed in the Palace of Constantinople: And how Orson turned Hermet.

AT the end of 7 Years, Valentine fell into a mortal Disease, whereof he dyed. Before his Death an Angel appeared to him saying, Valen. thy Glass is Run: for within 4 hours thou shalt dye: Whereat he greatly Rejoyced, making signs for Pen, Ink, & Paper; when he had it, he wrote that it was himself that appeared like a Pilgrim, and discovered the Treason. After putting to it his Name, he closed up the paper, putting in the other half of the Ring that he had kept: Shortly after he laid him down & Dyed. When Orson saw that he was Dead, he was troubled in mind. The poor Man being Dead, held a Letter in his Hand, which Orson would have taken out, but could not, then came Clerimond, & as soon as he laid hold thereon, the Hand opened it self. Clerimond breaking up the Letter, & knowing the half Ring, said, Loys, we shall hear news of Valentine: So a Secretary was called to Read it, at the Reading hereof, great lamentation was made, but especially by Clerimond, who falling on the dead body, said: Alas I have lost all my Joy, Comfort, & Hopes, for that my love should dye so near my person, & I know not of it. Now great preparations was made for his Funeral Rites; he was interred in great magnificence in Constantin. Clerimond afterward betook her to a single life. Thus having shewn the death of Valentine, and what became of Clerimond: Let us return to Orson, who ruled the Empire of Constantin. Seven years, and by his second Wife Galazy, he had a Son named Morant, who afterward was king of Angory.

After 7 years were expired. Galazy dyed, for whom Ors. was exceeding sorrowful, & in the end, betook him to the Woods, feeding on bread & roots.

It happened one night, that he saw a vision, it seemed to him more glorious than his tongue could utter. After this Vision he awaked, & being astonished hereat, with tears he came to the Green kt. & said: Sir, I see the uncertainty of the World, for which I am willing to resign my estate & children unto you: see them well educated, that they may be fit to govern such a people, for I will spend the rest of my days in solitary contemplation: When the Green kt. heard these words, he wept bitterly. But Orson comforted him, saying: Weep not; but pray for me, as I for you, that you may accomplish that which I put you in trust withal. So taking his way towards a wood, he there spent the remainder of his days: the Green kt. after so governed his children, that they carefully spent their time on earth, and followed their Father to his Grave. F I N I S.

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Chap. I. **H**OW King Pepin banished his Queen Bertha; and how he gave his Sister Bellisant in Marriage to Alexander, Emperour of Constantinople.

Chap. II. How the Arch priest of Constantinople betrayed the Emperour, his Lord and Master, in making love to fair Bellisant the Empress; and what evil followed thereupon. The Arch-priest having received a replate of Bellisant, to save his own Honour, practised treason against the Innocent Lady.

Chap. III. How the Arch-priest put on him the Habit of a Knight at Arms, and being well mounted, followed the Empress Bellisant, who was lately Banished. How Bellisant, in her Banishment, was Delivered of two fair Sons in the Wood, whose Names were Valentine and Orson, and how she lost them.

Chap. IV. Of the Bear that bore away one of the Children.

Chap. V. How, by the Counsel of the Arch-priest, new Customs, and Taxations were raised through the city of Constantinople; and how the treason came to light. How the Emperor, by the Counsel of his Nobility, sent for King Pepin, to see the Combate fought between the Arch-priest and the Merchant.

Chap. VI. How the Merchant, and High-priest encountred at the place appointed, about the clearing the Lady Bellisant, and what a glorious Victory did betide the Merchant. How King Pepin, after the Combat, returned into France, and after sailed to Rome, to fight the Sarazens that had surprized the City.

Chap. VII. How King Pepin besieged Rome; and how Valentine Jasted with the Admiral of the Sarazens, and slew him, whereby the City was relieved, and won again from the Sarazens.

Chap. 8.

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- Chap. VIII.** How **Haufray** and **Henry** repined at the love the King did shew towards **Valentine**.
- Chap. IX.** How **Valentine** Conquered his brother **Dyson** (the Wild-man in the Forrest of **Dyleance**) and afterwards departed from the Forrest, with **Dyson**, towards **Dyleance**, wherein King **Pepin** was resident.
- Chap. X.** How **Haufray** and **Henry** took Counsel together, to Murther **Valentine**, in the Chamber of **Eglantine**. And how Duke **Sabary** sent unto King **Pepin**, for aid against the **Green knight**, who would have his Daughter in Marriage against his Will.
- Chap. XI.** How divers Knights arrived at **Aquitain**, at a solemn Joust there holden to bear away the Love of the beautilous Lady **Fezen**. How **Haufray** and **Henry**, accompanied with a Troop of their Confederates, lay in Ambush to take away the Life of **Valentine**.
- Chap. XII.** How **Dyson** and **Gyggar** fought together; and how **Dyson** returning Victor, caused **Gyggar** to confess the Treason, who was after Hanged, and **Valentine** delivered from the Dungeon, &c.
- Chap. XIII.** How **Dyson** Encountered the **Green Knight**, and what followed thereof; also how **Valentine** attempted to fight with him, but could not overcome him.
- Chap. XIV.** How **Valentine** took Advice, and sent **Dyson** on the morrow, to fight the **Green Knight**; and how **Dyson** Overcame him.
- Chap. XV.** How **Dyson** having Conquer'd the **Green Knight**, **Valentine** caused him to be Christened, and sending him to King **Pepin**, &c.
- Chap. XVI.** How king **Pepin** came to know that **Valentine** and **Dyson** were his Nephews; and how the **Green Knight** submitted himself according to his Promise.
- Chap. XVII.** How King **Pepin** departed from France towards **Greece**, to bear these Tydings; how he found **Constantinople** besieged by the Souldan of **Egypt**; how the **Green knight** Justed with two Sarazens & overcame them; of the battel that was fought, and the Armies entring the City.
- Chap. XVIII.** How **Valentine** and **Dyson** arrived at the strong Castle wherein fair **Clerimond** was; and how, by the brazen-head, they had knowledge of their Parents.
- Chap. XIX.** How (when as **Valentine** was before the Castle, talking with the Guard) **Clerimond** bewailed the love of **Valentine**: And how he Justed for the Entrance, and over-came the Seneshal.
- Chap. XX.** How **Valentine** shewed **Clerimond** her brothers Ring, which the **Green Knight** gave him, and how he questioned with the brazen head, which told him from whence he was descended.

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- Chap. XXI.** How the Gyant *Ferragus* had knowledge of all that past, between his Sister and *Valentine*, by the means of one *Pacolet* a Dwarf and an Enchanter.
- Chap. XXII.** How *Pacolet* hereupon made another expeditious Journey into *Portugal*, to see the Lady *Bellissant*, *Valentine's* Mother; his returning back, and the News that he brought.
- Chap. XXIII.** How *Valentine* and *Dyson* were betrayed by the Treachery of *Ferragus*; and how he committed them to prison, with their woeful Lamentation.
- Chap. XXIV.** How *pacolet* the Dwarf comforted the two Ladies.
- Chap. XXV.** How by Art *pacolet* set free *Valentine* and *Dyson* from the prison of *Ferrag.* & conducted them, with their Mother & fair *Clerim.*
- Chap. XXVI.** How *Valentine* and *Dyson* escaped the Castle of *Ferragus.* and sailed with the two Ladies into *Aquitain.*
- Chap. XXVII.** How King *Ferragus* asssembled all his Men of War, to take Revenge upon *Valentine*, and his Sister *Clerimond*, and how he followed them into *Aquitain.*
- Chap. XXVIII.** How the Duke of *Aquitain* was taken Prisoner in the Battel by *Ferragus*, and how *Dyson* set him free by the help of *Pacolet.*
- Chap. XXIX.** How *Dyson* tryed the Constancy of the Lady *Hezon*, before he Married her.
- Chap. XXX.** How *Ferragus* the Gyant strengthened his forces by the Aid of King *Trompart*, and the Enchanter *Adymain.*
- Chap. XXXI.** Of the pittiful Tale the Empress made to *Valentine* her Son, before his farewell into *Constantinople*, and what Speeches passed between him, his father, and his Uncle.
- Chap. XXXII.** How *Valentine* and the *Green Knight* were taken Prisoners in the Battel of *Constantinople*, by the Souldan *Mozadin* & his Men.
- Chap. XXXIII.** How *Pacolet*, by Enchantment, delivered *Valentine* & the *Green Knight* out of the Bondage of the Souldan; and how *Pacolet* Couzened the Souldan when he had him upon his Horse, &c.
- Chap. XXXIV.** How King *Trompart* came before *Aquitain*, to succour *Ferragus*, and brought with him *Adymain* the Enchanter, who betray'd *Pacolet*, &c.
- Chap. XXXV.** How King *Pepin* took leave of the Emperor at his Departure from *Greece*, & how *Orson* went along with him, How *Garnier* fainting, left the Knife in the Bed, and Accused *Orson* falsely of Treason; and how the Knife was found in the King's Bed. And how *Orson* claimed Comb:st against his Accusers, when they would have adjudged him; and it was (by the twelve Peers of *France*) granted. And how *Valentine*, in seeking *Clerimond*, arrived at *Antioch*, and Fought with a Dragon, and in the end Slew the Dragon. And how *Valentine*, after the Conquest of the Dragon, caused the King of *Antioch*, and

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and all his Land to be Baptized; and of the Lawless Love of the Queen *Rozamond*. And how the King of *Andalack* was put to Death for Renouncing his Mahometry, by King *Brandiffer*, his Wifes Father. And how the Emperor of Greece, and the Green Knight were taken Prisoners by *Brandiffer*.

Chap. XXXVI. How *Clerimond* after the year was past, feigned her self mad, because she would not wed the King of *Indie*: And of *Lucar* that would revenge the death of his Father King *Trompart*, upon the King of *Indie*: How King *Lucar* in the City of *Esclariana* wedded *Rozamond*, the fair daughter of *Brandiffer*: how *Valentine* departed from *Esclardy*, to breathe out Defiance; of the Answer he brought from the *Indian King*: how *Rozamond* found a way to be taken, and led unto the *Indian King*: how King *Lucar* caused *Brandiffer* to stay with him, and sent *Valentine* into *Angory* against King *Pepin*, &c

Chap. XXXVII. How *Valentine* returned back to *Indie*, after the Battel, and bare with him the dead body of King *Murgalant*; how he heard tydings of his Father; how *Pacolet* freed the *Indian King*, and left *Brandiffer* in prison; how K. *Lucar* caused all that hundred that watched the *Indian*, to be drawn to death at Horses Tails, &c.

Chap. XXXVIII. How *Valentine* and *Pacolet* came before the Castle: how *Pacolet* raised up the Devil, to ask his counsel about the taking of the Castle: how *Brandiffer* brought the Twelve Peers of *France* into his strong Castle, and imprisoned them: how he besieged the City of *Angory*. And how *Brandiffer* having knowledge that *Lucar* was Captive in *Angory*, made means to *Valentine*, to deliver him upon sufficient Ransom.

Chap. XXXIX. How *Myllon Daugler* (who was taken for the K. of *France*) was delivered out of Prison in lieu of K. *Lucar*: How *Valentine* and the Duke of *Myllon* issued out of *Angory*, and won the Battel from the *Sarazens*: How K. *Pepin* was delivered in change for the King of *Indie's* Marshal, left *Angory*, and returned into *France*, to succour his wife.

Chap. XL. How *Valentine*, under the shape of a Physician, went into *Indie*, to see & speak with the fair *Clerimond*: how *Valentine* rode away with her: how the K. of *Brittain* was given to K. *Pepin* by treason: how *Valentine* took the strong Castle, and delivered his Father the Emperor, and all the rest of the prisoners: how the Emperor, *Orson*, and the Green Kt. kept a strong Garrison in the Castle: how *Haufray* and *Henry* compassed the death of their Father: how the Emperor of Greece, *Orson*, and the Green Kt. left the Castle, and came to the succour of *Valentine* in *Angory*: how the Christians issued out of the City of *Angory*, and bid battel to the *Sarazens*: how *Valentine* ignorantly slew his Father: and how *Myllon Daugler* returned into *France*, and *Valentine* and *Orson* into Greece.

Chap. XLI. How *Valentine* took leave of *Clerimond* before his Pilgrimage, how King *Hugon* demanded *Clerimond* for his Wife, how he betrayed *Orson*, and the Green Knight: how *Galeran* delivered Letters to the Ladies, and of the grievous lamentations they made: how *Bellisant* and *Clerimond* came to know of King *Hugon's* Treason: how *Galeran* lost his head, and how *Orson*, and the Green Knight were set free.

Chap. XLII. How at the end of 7 years, *Valentine* dyed in the Palace of *Constantinople*, and how *Orson* turned Hermet.

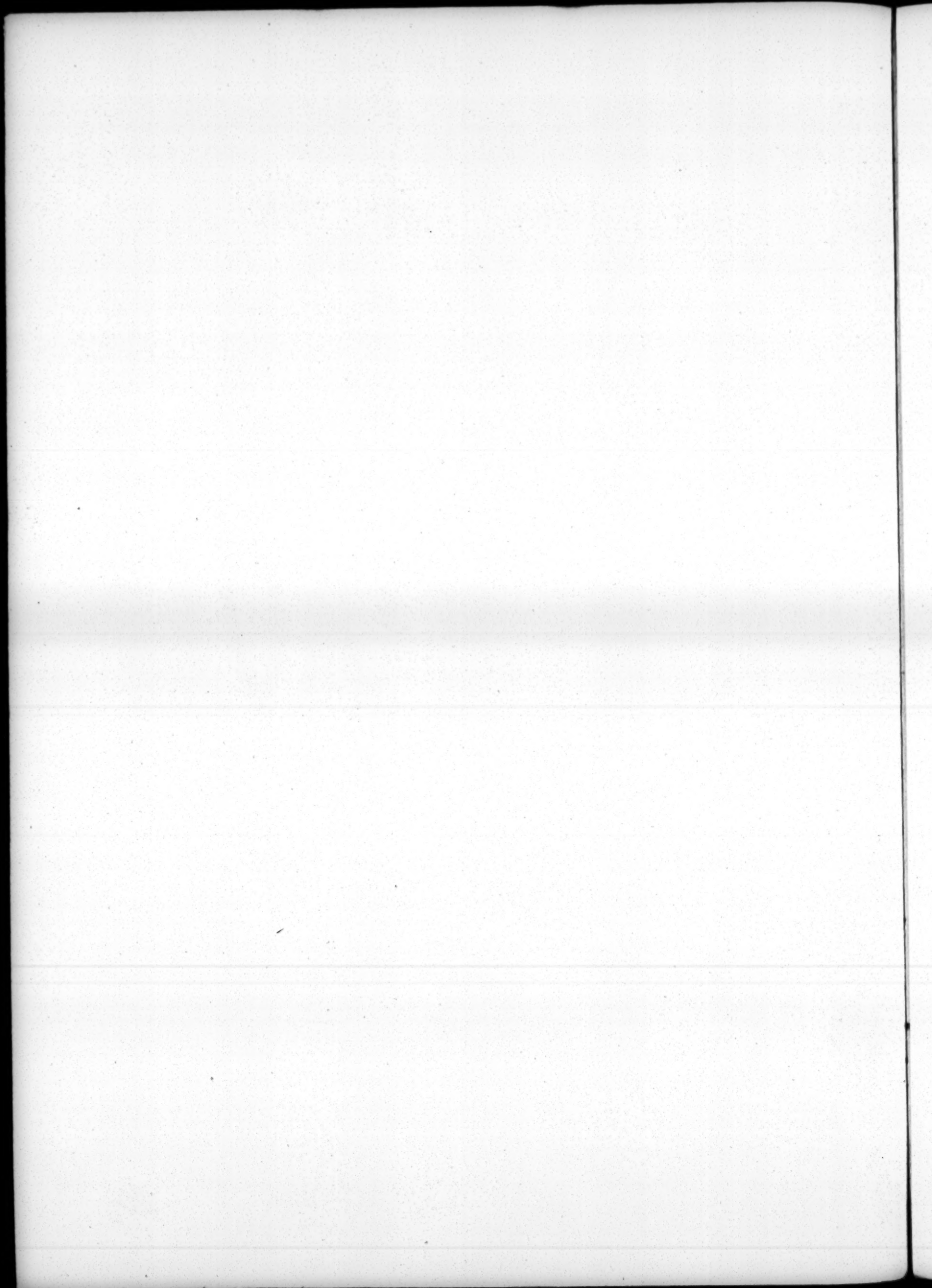
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